

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a green tractor working in a field. The tractor is in the lower right, moving towards the left. The field is brown and appears to be recently plowed. In the background, there are several green trees and a clear blue sky.

The Great Grid Upgrade

Eastern Green Link 3 (EGL 3) and
Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL 4)

Preliminary environmental information report (PEIR)

**Volume 2, Part 1, Appendix 1.2.A Regulatory and Planning
Context**

May 2025

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1.2.A. Regulatory and Planning Context

1.2.A.1 Overview

1.2.A.1.1 This appendix presents the relevant legislation and policy against which the Development Consent Order (DCO) application will be assessed. Details of the key policies and legislation relevant to the environmental aspect chapters in **Volume 1, Part 2 English Onshore Scheme, Part 3 English Offshore Scheme and Part 4 Project Wide Scheme** of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) are presented in the sections below.

1.2.A.2 English Onshore Scheme

1.2.A.2.1 This section identifies the relevant legislation, national and local policy and technical guidance which has informed the scope of the environmental aspect chapters for the English Onshore Scheme.

Legislation

1.2.A.2.2 A summary of the key legislation considered in, but not limited to, the scope of the environmental aspect effects is outlined in **Table 1.2.A-1**.

Table 1.2.A-1 - Legislation relevant to the environmental aspect chapters

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended) (the ‘Habitats Regulations’)	<p>The objective is to protect biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora. Regulations provide for the designation and protection of European sites (those part of the national site network), the protection of European protected species, and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites.</p> <p>Following the UK’s exit from the European Union (EU), The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations (2019) were enacted and resulted in amendments to the Habitats Regulations. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in the UK no longer form part of the European Union’s Natura (2000) ecological network. The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations (2019) created a national site network on land and at sea, including both the inshore and offshore marine areas in the UK. The national site network includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Existing SACs and SPAs; and	Biodiversity

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New SACs and SPAs designated under these Regulations. <p>Any references to Natura 2000 in the 2017 Regulations and in guidance now refers to the new national site network.</p> <p>It is also a matter of government policy (part 187 of the National Planning Policy Framework) that Ramsar sites, proposed Ramsar sites, potential SPA (pSPA) and possible SAC (pSAC) are also considered in the same way as SACs, SPAs and candidate SACs (cSACs).</p>	
Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) (1981) (as amended)	Protected birds, animals and plants are listed under Schedules 1, 5 and 8 respectively of the WCA (1981) (as amended). Invasive, non-native species are also listed under Schedule 9.	Biodiversity
Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) (as amended)	Species and Habitats of Principal Importance in England and Wales are listed under Section 41 and Section 42 respectively of the NERC Act (2006). Section 41 and 42 lists species that are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England and should be used to guide decision-makers such as local and regional authorities when implementing their duty to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity in the exercise of their normal functions – as required under Section 40 of the NERC Act (2006).	Biodiversity
Environment Act (2021)	<p>The Environment Act (2021) has two main functions: to give a legal framework for environmental governance in the UK, and to bring in measures for improvement of the environment in relation to waste, resource efficiency, air quality, water, nature and biodiversity, and conservation. This Act makes a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) a statutory requirement for most developments.</p> <p>The act also strengthens the biodiversity duty under the NERC Act for public authorities to enhance biodiversity, rather than just conserve it.</p> <p>The Act also serves to amend the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended), enabling licensed to be granted for a new statutory licensing purpose, i.e. reasons of overriding public interest. These amendments to the Wildlife and Countryside Act also require that a wild animal licence may only be granted in England where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> there is no other satisfactory solution, and the grant of the licence is not detrimental to the survival of any population of the species of animal or plant to which the licence relates. 	Biodiversity

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
	<p>The Environment Act (2021) Part 5 brings together measures to strengthen and update the existing regulatory and long-term planning framework for water, helping to reduce environmental risks, including to water quality and land drainage. It also strengthens the regulation of water and sewerage undertakers by the newly established Office for Environmental Protection.</p>	Water Environment
	<p>The Environment Act (2021):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims to protect and enhance the natural environment, including groundwater resources. • Provides a framework for the sustainable management of water resources, considering the needs of the environment and society. • Encourages the implementation of measures to prevent pollution and promote the restoration of damaged environments, including groundwater. • Facilitates the integration of environmental considerations into decision-making processes and policies. 	Geology and Hydrogeology
	<p>The Environment Act (2021) creates the legislative framework by which statutory air quality targets are set by reference to plans such as the Environmental Improvement Plan (2021).</p>	Air Quality
	<p>The Environment Act (2021) outlines targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment. Part 1 (Environmental Targets) Regulation 1 (1) states: <i>“The Secretary of State may by regulations set long-term targets in respect of any matter which relates to (a) the natural environment, or (b) people’s enjoyment of the natural environment”</i>.</p>	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
	<p>The Environment Act (2021) sets out a series of long-term targets which relate to the natural environment and people’s enjoyment of the natural environment, under Part 1 Regulation 1. Targets for improving air quality, water quality, biodiversity and resource efficiency are required to be met.</p>	Health and Wellbeing
	<p>The Environment Act (2021) outlines the targets to protect and improve the quality of environment for the next 15 years.</p>	Agriculture and Soils

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
The Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (2019)	For animal species under this order, it is an offence to release or allow them to escape into the wild, and for plant species it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause them to grow in the wild.	Biodiversity
Protection of Badgers Act (1992)	It is an offence to wilfully take, kill, injure, possess or ill-treat a badger. Under the Protection of Badgers Act (1992) their setts are protected against intentional or reckless interference. Sett interference includes damaging or destroying a sett, obstructing access to any part of the sett, or disturbance of a badger whilst it is occupying a sett. The Act defines a badger sett as ‘any structure or place, which displays signs indicating the current use by a badger’ and statutory bodies take this definition to include seasonally used setts that are not occupied but that show sign of recent use by badgers.	Biodiversity
The Hedgerow Regulations (1997)	Under The Hedgerows Regulations, it is an offence to remove a hedgerow (as defined within the Regulations) without obtaining local planning authority (LPA) permission. Should the hedgerow be deemed unimportant according to the criteria within the Regulations, the LPA is obliged to allow removal. However, if the hedgerow qualifies as ‘Important’ under the Regulations, the LPA must decide whether the reasons for removal justify the loss of an ‘Important Hedgerow’, with a presumption for retention.	Biodiversity
	These regulations set out criteria to be used to determine the importance of hedgerows and protect important hedgerows from removal. Selection criteria include heritage-based considerations.	Cultural Heritage
	Hedgerows protected under these Regulations that may be relevant to the Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVIA) process, specifically the assessment of impacts upon landscape elements and the development of design and control measures and/or optional additional mitigation.	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) (‘the CROW Act’)	The CROW Act has amended the WCA in England and Wales, strengthening the protection afforded to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and the legal protection for threatened species. It adds the word ‘reckless’ to the wording of the offences listed under Section 9(4) of the WCA. This alteration makes it an offence to recklessly commit an offence, where	Biodiversity

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
	<p>previously an offence had to be intentional to result in a breach of legislation.</p> <p>The CROW Act makes provision for, and aims to protect, public access to the countryside. It extends the right of public access, including to woodlands, the Green Belt, waters and grasslands, and for connectivity purposes.</p>	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act (1975)	This Act covers regulation of fisheries in England and Wales and includes legislation that covers the introduction of polluting effluents, the obstruction of fish passage (screens, dams, weirs, culverts etc), illegal means of fishing, permitted times of legal fishing and fishing licencing (which covers electric fishing).	Biodiversity
The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations (2009)	<p>The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations (2009) implement Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 of the Council of the European Union (Ref 6.12), which required Member States to establish measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel.</p> <p>The Regulations give powers to the regulators (the Environment Agency in England) to implement recovery measures in all freshwater and estuarine waters. The aim of the regulations is to achieve 40 per cent escapement of adult eels relative to escapement levels under pristine conditions. The measures, as set out in the legislation, by which this is to be achieved is to reduce fishing pressures, improve access and habitat quality and reduce the impact of impingement and entrainment.</p>	Biodiversity
Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)	This Act sets out that sites considered to be of national importance are required to be compiled in a Schedule of Monuments. These sites are accorded statutory protection. The Act sets out conditions whereby Scheduled Monument Consent is required. This Act also provides for the designation of Areas of Archaeological Interest in which statutory provisions for access to construction sites for carrying out archaeological works apply.	Cultural Heritage
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)	This Act covers the registration of listed buildings (buildings that are seen to be of special architectural or historic interest) and the designation of conservation areas (areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance). It sets out the conditions under which a listed building consent would be required. The Act sets out at Sections 66 and Section 72 the duties of Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to give great weight to	Cultural Heritage

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
	the desirability of preserving listed buildings and their settings and the character of conservation areas in planning decisions. The Section 66 and Section 72 duties are superseded in applications under the Planning Act (2008) by equivalent provisions in the Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) Regulations (2010) (see below).	
Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act (1953)	Under section 8C of the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act (1953), Historic England compiles a register of gardens and other land situated in England and appearing to them to be of special historic interest.	Cultural Heritage
Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) Regulations (2010)	These regulations require decision-makers to have regard to the desirability of preserving a Scheduled Monument or its setting; listed buildings, any features which contribute to their special interest and their settings and to have regard for the desirability of preserving the character and appearance of conservation areas. These duties supersede sections 66 and 72 of the Planning Act (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (1990) in determining DCO applications.	Cultural Heritage
Treasure Act (1996)	This Act defines what constitutes “treasure”. Any find of “treasure” must be reported to the local Coroner.	Cultural Heritage
Treasure (Designation) Order (2002)	This Order amends the statutory definition of “treasure”.	Cultural Heritage
The Treasure (Designation) (Amendment) Order (2023)	This Order amends the Treasure (Designation) Order (2002) to include an additional class of objects within the definition of treasure in section 1(1) of the Treasure Act (1996) (c. 24), and to exclude two classes of objects from that definition.	Cultural Heritage
Burial Act (1857)	This Act states that it is generally an offence to remove human remains from a place of burial without a licence from the Secretary of State.	Cultural Heritage
Protection of Military Remains Act (1986)	This Act sets out specific protections for aircraft which have crashed or vessels which have sunk or been stranded whilst in military service. It sets out a general prohibition on any disturbance or removal of such remains without a licence granted by the Secretary of State.	Cultural Heritage
The European Landscape Convention (ELC)	A Council of Europe initiative that provides a broad framework for landscape planning and management across all member states including the UK, signed by the UK government in 2006 and introduced in March 2007. The status of this convention is not affected by Brexit.	Landscape and Visual Amenity

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
	These commitments are implemented by existing domestic policy and legislation rather than through any ELC specific framework. The ELC defines landscape as, <i>“an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”</i> and is committed to several core principles and actions.	
The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations (2017)	<p>The 2017 Regulations place a general duty on the Secretary of State (SoS), the Welsh Ministers, the Environment Agency, and Natural Resources Wales to exercise their ‘relevant functions’ so as to secure compliance with the WFD (Regulation 3).</p> <p>The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a framework for managing the water environment in the UK, aiming to achieve good ecological and chemical status of water bodies, including groundwater. • Sets out provisions for the protection and improvement of groundwater quality and quantity, including measures to prevent pollution and ensure sustainable water resource management. • Requires the development and implementation of river basin management plans, which consider the protection and restoration of groundwater. • Promotes the involvement of stakeholders and public participation in water management decision-making processes. 	<p>Water Environment</p> <p>Geology and Hydrogeology</p>
Flood and Water Management Act (2010)	The Act created the role of the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) to take responsibility for leading the co-ordination of local flood risk management in their areas. In accordance with the Act the Environment Agency is responsible for the management of risks associated with main rivers, the sea and reservoirs; and the LLFAs are responsible for the management of risks associated with local sources of flooding such as ordinary watercourses, surface water and groundwater.	Water Environment
The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations (2018)	Under these Regulations it is an offence to cause or knowingly permit a water discharge activity, unless complying with an exemption or an Environmental Permit obtained from the Environment Agency. The Regulations also manage works in, under, or near a main river, to ensure no detrimental impacts on these watercourses.	Water Environment

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
	<p>The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires operators of certain activities, including those related to waste management and industrial processes, to obtain environmental permits that address the protection of groundwater. Specifies measures to prevent or control pollution of groundwater, including stringent storage and handling requirements for hazardous substances. Mandates monitoring and reporting obligations to ensure compliance with groundwater protection standards and facilitate early detection of potential contamination incidents. <p>Enables regulatory authorities to take enforcement action, including imposing penalties, for non-compliance with the regulations' groundwater protection requirements.</p>	Geology and Hydrogeology
The Land Drainage Act (1991) together with the Water Resources Act (1991)	Provides for the Environment Agency to prevent the obstruction of any main river through the construction of flow control structures, culverts or any other structure in a main river. Where culverting or other works have a potential to affect the flow regime on ordinary watercourses, consent is required from the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) which provides a more comprehensive flood risk management framework for people, homes and businesses.	Water Environment
Environmental Protection Act (EPA) (1990)	<p>The EPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes provisions for preventing and controlling pollution to protect water sources, including groundwater. Regulates activities that may have an impact on groundwater quality, such as waste management and industrial processes. Provides powers to regulators for monitoring and enforcing compliance with groundwater protection standards. Requires the identification and remediation of contaminated land to prevent pollution of groundwater. <p>The EPA sets out: the definition of statutory nuisance due to noise; the duty on local authorities to investigate and abate nuisance; and defence against abatement because “<i>best practicable means</i>” has been employed to</p>	<p>Geology and Hydrogeology</p> <p>Noise and Vibration</p>

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
	<p>minimise noise (including vibration) for business premises. The EPA sets out the means for a person affected by noise nuisance to seek abatement through the courts.</p> <p>The Noise and Statutory Nuisance Act sets out an extension of powers to abate noise nuisance to a wider range of sources than the EPA.</p> <p>Part III of the Environmental Protection Act (1990) provides legislation around statutory nuisance, which applies to dust.</p>	Air Quality
Environmental Protection Act (EPA) (1990) Part IIA	<p>The overarching objectives of the regime are:</p> <p>(a) To identify and remove unacceptable risks to human health and the environment.</p> <p>(b) To seek to ensure that contaminated land is made suitable for its current use.</p> <p>(c) To ensure that the burdens faced by individuals, companies and society as a whole are proportionate, manageable and compatible with the principles of sustainable development.</p>	Geology and Hydrogeology
The Contaminated Land (England) Regulations (2006)	<p>The Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Part IIA of the EPA. • Focuses on the identification and remediation of contaminated land, including the protection of groundwater from contamination. • Sets out procedures and standards for assessing and managing contaminated land to prevent or reduce risks to human health and the environment. • Requires the investigation and remediation of significant pollution incidents that pose a threat to groundwater quality. • Establishes responsibilities for identifying and remediating historical contamination that may impact groundwater. 	Geology and Hydrogeology
Groundwater (England and Wales) Regulations (2009)	<p>The Groundwater (England and Wales) Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implements the EU Groundwater Directive to protect and manage groundwater resources in England and Wales. • Sets standards and measures for preventing and reducing pollution of groundwater, including the control of hazardous substances. 	Geology and Hydrogeology

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires the monitoring and reporting of groundwater quality to assess compliance with quality standards. Facilitates the development and implementation of programs of measures to achieve good groundwater status and prevent deterioration. 	
Environmental Damage Regulations (2009)	<p>The Environmental Damage Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Places liability on operators to prevent and remedy environmental damage, including damage to groundwater. Requires operators engaged in activities with a significant risk of causing environmental damage to have financial mechanisms in place to cover potential liabilities. Implements the "polluter pays" principle, holding operators responsible for the costs of preventive and remedial measures in case of environmental damage to groundwater. Encourages the restoration of affected groundwater to its original state or as close as possible, ensuring the long-term protection and sustainable use of this resource. 	Geology and Hydrogeology
The Water Act (2014)	<p>The Water Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focuses on the sustainable management of water resources and the protection of water quality, including groundwater. Provides powers to regulators to manage water resources effectively, including the ability to issue licenses and permits for water abstraction and discharge activities. Sets out provisions for regulating and controlling activities that may impact groundwater, such as the construction and operation of wells and boreholes. Addresses issues related to water supply, drought management, flood risk management, and the protection of aquatic ecosystems. 	Geology and Hydrogeology
The Water Resources Act (1991)	<p>The Water Resources Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulates the abstraction and impounding of water, including groundwater, to prevent overexploitation and ensure sustainable water resource management. 	Geology and Hydrogeology

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes licensing requirements and permits for water abstraction activities to protect groundwater quantity and quality. Sets out provisions for controlling pollution and contamination of groundwater to safeguard its ecological and human health significance. Promotes the implementation of water resource management plans to balance water supply needs while considering the protection of groundwater resources. 	
The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations (2016)	<p>The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires operators of certain activities, including those related to waste management and industrial processes, to obtain environmental permits that address the protection of groundwater. Specifies measures to prevent or control pollution of groundwater, including stringent storage and handling requirements for hazardous substances. Mandates monitoring and reporting obligations to ensure compliance with groundwater protection standards and facilitate early detection of potential contamination incidents. Enables regulatory authorities to take enforcement action, including imposing penalties, for non-compliance with the regulations' groundwater protection requirements. 	Geology and Hydrogeology
The Agricultural Land (Removal of Surface Soil) Act (1953)	<i>"An Act to make it an offence to remove surface soil from land in certain circumstances; and for purposes connected therewith."</i>	Agriculture and Soils
The Highways Act (1980)	The Highways Act (1980) sets out the requirements pertaining to delivering highways infrastructure, managing existing highways and managing highway activity including off site highway works, for example, the creation of temporary site access.	Traffic and Transport
New Roads and Street Works Act (1991)	The New Roads and Street Works Act (1991) provides a legislative framework for street works by undertakers and works for road purposes to the extent that these must be coordinated by street authorities.	Traffic and Transport
Traffic Management Act (2004)	The Traffic Management Act (2004) provides powers to tackle congestion and disruption on the road network and requires local authorities, where possible, to ensure that traffic can move quickly and freely on their roads.	Traffic and Transport

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
The Control of Pollution Act (1974) (particularly Sections 60 and 61) (CoPA)	<p>Sets out the Section 60 notice which local authorities can serve so as to impose requirements upon relevant construction activities with regard to the control of noise.</p> <p>Under Section 61 of the CoPA, the party that intends to carry out works to which Section 60 applies may apply to the local authority for consent and “<i>an application under this section shall contain particulars of –</i></p> <p><i>The works, and method by which they are to be carried out; and</i></p> <p><i>The steps proposed to be taken to minimise noise resulting from the works”.</i></p>	Noise and Vibration
Directive 2008/50/EC on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe	This sets legally binding limits for concentrations of specific air pollutants. It merges, consolidates and replaces the majority of previous EU air quality legislation, and incorporates the Fourth Daughter Directive. While the UK has now left the EU, the Air Quality Standards Regulations (2010) (as amended) (Ref 14.2) which implement the Directive still apply in UK legislation as ‘retained EU law’.	Air Quality
The Air Quality (Amendment of Domestic Regulations) (EU Exit) Regulations (2019)	These regulations amend the Air Quality Standards Regulations (2010) to reflect the UK’s departure from the EU.	Air Quality
The Air Quality (England) Regulations (2000)	The Air Quality (England) Regulations (2000) set national air quality objective levels for local authorities to meet in England.	Air Quality
The Air Quality (England) (Amendment) Regulations (2002)	The Air Quality (England) (Amendment) Regulations (2002) set national air quality objective levels for local authorities to meet in England.	Air Quality
Part IV of the Environment Act (1995)	The Environment Act (1995) contains provisions for protecting air quality in the UK and for local air quality management. It requires the UK Government to produce a national Air Quality Strategy (AQS) which contains standards, objectives and measures for improving ambient air quality, and defines Local Air Quality Management (LAQM). It introduced an obligation on local authorities to issue, where the air quality standards are not being met, an order designating an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).	Air Quality
Environment (Miscellaneous	Regulation 2 of the Environment (Miscellaneous Amendments) (EU Exit) Regulations (2020) updated the	Air Quality

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
Amendments) (EU Exit) Regulations (2020)	Air Quality Standards Regulations (2010) to include a Limit Value of 20 µg/m ³ for PM _{2.5} ¹ from 2020. The Limit Values for nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂) and PM ₁₀ ² remained the same concentration levels as the relevant AQS objectives.	
The Environmental Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations (2023)	The legislation sets out targets to reduce concentrations of PM _{2.5} to be equal to or less than 10 µg/m ³ by 2040. It also states that exposure to PM _{2.5} must be reduced by at least 35% by 2040.	Air Quality
Equality Act, (2010)	The Equality Act outlines legislation to protect people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society, addressing the key protected characteristics of: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism Health and Wellbeing
Localism Act, (2011)	The Localism Act gives rights and powers to both communities and individuals. It is relevant in the context of the Project due to its proximity to recreational facilities.	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (2017)	Under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)) Regulations, a number of topics are required to be assessed. This includes human health, with a description of the factors likely to be significantly affected by the development and a description of the likely significant effects.	All aspects assessed for the English Onshore Scheme in Volume 1, Part 2 English Onshore Scheme

¹ particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter.

² particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter.

Planning Policy

- 1.2.A.2.3 A summary of the planning policies at both a national and local level relevant to the scope of the environmental aspect effects is outlined in **Table 1.2.A-2** and **Table 1.2.A-3**.
- 1.2.A.2.4 It is acknowledged that draft updates to the Energy National Policy Statements (NPS) have been published for consultation in April 2025. Any updates to the 2023 NPSs (EN-1 to EN-5) which came into force on 17 January 2024, will be considered in the Environmental Statement (ES) and other Development Consent Order (DCO) Application documents as appropriate.

Table 1.2.A-2 - National Planning Policy relevant to the environmental aspect chapters

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2024)		
Section 4.6 Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain	<p><i>“Energy NSIP proposals, whether onshore or offshore, should seek opportunities to contribute to and enhance the natural environment by providing net gains for biodiversity, and the wider environment where possible.</i></p> <p><i>In England applicants for onshore elements of any development are encouraged to use the latest version of the biodiversity metric to calculate their biodiversity baseline and present planned biodiversity net gain outcomes. This calculation data should be presented in full as part of their application.”</i></p>	Biodiversity
Section 5.4 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation	<p><i>“Where the development is subject to EIA, the applicant should ensure that the ES clearly sets out any effects on internationally, nationally, and locally designated sites of ecological conservation importance, on protected species and on habitats and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity, including irreplaceable habitats.”</i></p> <p><i>“The applicant should show how the project has taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity conservation interests.</i></p> <p><i>Applicants should also consider wider ecosystem services and natural capital benefits when designing enhancement measures.”</i></p>	Biodiversity
Section 5.9, paragraphs 5.9.12, 5.9.17- 5.9.21.	<p>Requires change to the significance of heritage assets to be considered in developing an understanding of the potential effects of the proposed development.</p> <p>It recommends conditions for refusal due to substantial harm and sets out criteria for this.</p>	Cultural Heritage

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
Paragraph 5.10.5	<i>“Virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have adverse effects on the landscape, but there may also be beneficial landscape character impacts arising from mitigation.”</i>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Paragraph 5.10.6	<i>“Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints the aim should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate.”</i>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Paragraph 5.10.7	<i>“National Parks, the Broads and [Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty] AONBs have been confirmed by the government as having the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and natural beauty. Each of these designated areas has specific statutory purposes. Projects should be designed sensitively given the various siting, operational, and other relevant constraints. For development proposals located within designated landscapes, the Secretary of State should be satisfied that measures which seek to further purposes of the designation are sufficient, appropriate and proportionate to the type and scale of the development.”</i>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Paragraph 5.10.8	<i>“The duty to seek to further the purposes of nationally designated landscapes also applies when considering applications for projects outside the boundaries of these areas which may have impacts within them. In these locations, projects should be designed sensitively given the various siting, operational, and other relevant constraints.”</i>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Paragraph 5.10.19	<i>“The applicant should consider landscape and visual matters in the early stages of siting and design, where site choices and design principles are being established. This will allow the applicant to demonstrate in the ES how negative effects have been minimised and opportunities for creating positive benefits or enhancement have been recognised and incorporated into the design, delivery and operation of the scheme.”</i>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Paragraph 5.10.20	<i>“The assessment should include the effects on landscape components and character during construction and operation. For projects which may affect a National Park, The Broads or an AONBs the assessment should include effects on the natural beauty and special qualities of these areas.”</i>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Paragraph 5.10.21	Generic considerations to be given to landscape and visual amenity impacts. It states <i>“The assessment should include the visibility and conspicuousness of the project during construction and of the presence and operation of the project</i>	Landscape and Visual Amenity

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	<i>and potential impacts on views and visual amenity. This should include light pollution effects, including on local amenity, and nature conservation.”</i>	
Paragraph 5.10.32	<p><i>“When considering applications for development within National Parks, the Broads and AONBs the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty should be given substantial weight by the Secretary of State in deciding on applications for development consent in these areas. The Secretary of State may grant development consent in these areas in exceptional circumstances. Such development should be demonstrated to be in the public interest and consideration of such applications should include an assessment of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• the need for the development, including in terms of national considerations, and the impact of consenting or not consenting it upon the local economy;</i> <i>• the cost of, and scope for, developing all or part of the development elsewhere outside the designated area or meeting the need for it in some other way, taking account of the policy on alternatives set out in Section 4.3; and</i> <i>• any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.”</i> 	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Paragraph 5.8.13	Sets out when a site-specific flood risk assessment should be provided including for <i>“all energy projects in Flood Zones 2 and 3 in England”</i> .	Water Environment
Paragraph 5.8.14	This paragraph states that FRAs <i>“should identify and assess the risks of all forms of flooding to and from the project and demonstrate how these flood risks would be managed, taking climate change into account.”</i>	Water Environment
Paragraph 5.8.18	Pre-application discussions should be arranged with relevant bodies such as the Environment Agency, LLFAs and IDBs.	Water Environment
Paragraphs 5.16.1 and 5.16.2	Outlines some of the adverse effects infrastructure developments can have on the water environment. Indicates how these effects can result in <i>“surface waters, groundwaters or protected areas failing to meet environmental objectives established under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 and the Marine Strategy Regulations 2010”</i> .	Water Environment
Paragraph 5.16.14	Regard should be given to current River Basin Management Plans and the requirements of the WFD Regulations. Development will be refused consent where it is <i>“likely to</i>	Water Environment

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	<i>cause deterioration of a water body or its failure to achieve good status or good potential, unless the requirements set out in Regulation 19 are met.”</i>	
Paragraphs 5.16.8 to 5.16.10	These paragraphs set out requirements regarding mitigation.	Water Environment
Paragraph 5.16.15	<i>“The SoS should also consider the interactions of the proposed project with other plans such as Water Resources Management Plans and Shoreline/Estuary Management Plans.”</i>	Water Environment
Paragraph 5.16.16	<i>“The SoS should consider proposals to mitigate adverse effects on the water environment and any enhancement measures put forward by the applicant and whether appropriate requirements should be attached to any development consent and/or planning obligations are necessary.”</i>	Water Environment
Paragraph 5.4.12-5.4.13	EN-1 notes the contribution that regional and local geological sites have in supporting local biodiversity and geological interest	Geology and Hydrogeology
Paragraph 5.4.19	States that <i>“the Applicant should show how the Project has taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geological conservation interests.”</i>	Geology and Hydrogeology
Paragraph 5.11.3 – 5.11.5	Outlines the potential risk associated with the re-use of previously developed land for new development, noting that it may not be suitable for all forms of energy infrastructure. Paragraphs 5.11.4 and 5.11.5 identify potential effects on soil resources through land contamination as well as indirect impact on the local water regime, organic matter content and soil biodiversity. Risks would require consideration in accordance with the contaminated land statutory guidance as a minimum	Geology and Hydrogeology
Paragraph 5.11.8	Outlines that for development on previously developed land, the Applicant’s assessment <i>“should ensure that they have considered the risk posed by land contamination and how it is proposed to address this”</i> .	Geology and Hydrogeology
Paragraph 5.11.15 and 5.11.17	States that Applicants <i>“should consider the potential for adverse effects from land instability ensuring the site is suitable for its intended use taking into consideration ground conditions, land instability and contamination”</i> .	Geology and Hydrogeology
Paragraph 5.11.18	States that for developments on previously developed land, the Applicant’s assessment <i>“should ensure that they have considered the risk posed by land contamination, and where</i>	Geology and Hydrogeology

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	<p><i>contamination is present, applicants should consider opportunities for remediation where possible</i>".</p> <p>It is noted that engagement with relevant bodies should be carried out.</p>	
Paragraph 5.11.19	States that the Applicant <i>"should safeguard any mineral resources on the proposed site as far as possible, taking into account the long-term potential of the land use after any future decommissioning has taken place"</i> .	Geology and Hydrogeology
Paragraph 5.11.28	States that <i>"Where a proposed development has an impact upon a Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA), the Secretary of State should ensure that appropriate mitigation measures have been put in place to safeguard mineral resources."</i>	Geology and Hydrogeology
Paragraph 5.16.6	States that Applicants are encouraged to <i>"consider protective measures to control the risk of pollution to groundwater beyond those outlined in the River Basin Management Plans and Groundwater Protection Zones"</i> .	Geology and Hydrogeology
Paragraph 5.16.3 and 5.16.7	<p>Outlines the aspects that should be considered by the Applicant's assessment and the features that should be described in the ES, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existing quality of waters affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water quality, noting any relevant existing discharges, proposed new discharges and proposed changes to discharges. • Existing water resources affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water resources, noting any relevant existing abstraction rates, proposed new abstraction rates and proposed changes to abstraction rates (including any impact on or use of mains supplies and reference to Abstraction Licensing Strategies) and also demonstrate how proposals minimise the use of water resources and water consumption in the first instance. • Existing physical characteristics of the water environment (including quantity and dynamics of flow) affected by the proposed project and any impact of physical modifications to these characteristics. • Any impacts of the proposed project on water bodies or protected areas (including shellfish protected areas) under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations (2017) and source protection zones (SPZs) around potable groundwater abstractions. 	Geology and Hydrogeology

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
Paragraph 5.11.12	Sets out the preference for the use of poorer quality land (Grades 3b, 4 and 5) over Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land (defined as land in grades 1, 2 and 3a).	Agriculture and Soils
Paragraph 5.11.13	<i>“Applicants should also identify any effects and seek to minimise impacts on soil health and protect and improve soil quality taking into account any mitigation measures proposed.”</i>	Agriculture and Soils
Paragraph 5.11.14	<i>“Applicants are encouraged to develop and implement a Soil Management Plan which could help minimise potential land contamination. The sustainable reuse of soils needs to be carefully considered in line with good practice guidance where large quantities of soils are surplus to requirements or are affected by contamination.”</i>	Agriculture and Soils
Paragraph 5.11.34	This paragraph states that schemes should not be built on BMV land without justification, and poorer quality land should be used preferentially. Economic benefits of the land should also be accounted for.	Agriculture and Soils
Paragraph 5.14.4	The consideration and mitigation of transport impacts is an essential part of Government’s wider policy objectives for sustainable development as set out in Section 2.6 of NPS EN-1.	Traffic and Transport
Paragraph 5.14.5 Paragraph 5.14.6	If a project is likely to have significant transport implications, the Environmental Statement (ES) should include a transport appraisal, developed in consultation. National Highways and Highways Authorities are statutory consultees where it is expected to affect the Strategic Road Network (SRN) and / or have an impact on the local road network. Applicants should consult with National Highways and Highways Authorities as appropriate on the assessment and mitigation to inform the application to be submitted.	Traffic and Transport
Paragraph 5.14.7	Requirement, where appropriate, to prepare a Travel Plan (TP) and provide details of proposed measures to improve access by active, public, and shared transport to reduce the need for parking, contribute to decarbonisation, and improve user travel options.	Traffic and Transport
Paragraph 5.14.14	Where substantial Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) traffic is likely to occur the Secretary of State (SoS) may attach requirements to DCO consent to control numbers and routing of HGV movements, make sufficient provision for HGV parking and make arrangement for reasonably foreseeable abnormal disruption.	Traffic and Transport
Paragraph 5.14.18	The SoS should ensure the applicant has sought to mitigate substantial impacts on transport infrastructure. Where the proposed mitigation is insufficient the SoS should consider	Traffic and Transport

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
Paragraph 5.14.19	the requirements to mitigate adverse impacts arising from the development.	
Paragraph 5.12.1-5.12.4	These paragraphs of EN-1 set the context of the potential adverse effects that excessive noise and vibration can have on human health, wildlife and buildings. Noise can also have an adverse impact on the value of a landscape and quality of enjoyment in an area.	Noise and Vibration
Paragraph 5.12.5	<p>Sets out “<i>the factors that would determine the likely noise impact of a proposed development include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the inherent operational noise from the proposed development, and its characteristics</i> • <i>the proximity of the proposed development to noise sensitive premises (including residential properties, schools and hospitals) and noise sensitive areas (including certain parks and open spaces)</i> • <i>the proximity of the proposed development to quiet places and other areas that are particularly valued for their soundscape or landscape quality</i> • <i>the proximity of the proposed development to sites where noise may have an adverse impact on protected species or other wildlife, including migratory species</i> <p><i>the potential presence of unexploded ordnance on the seabed”.</i></p>	Noise and Vibration
Paragraph 5.12.6	<p>States that:</p> <p><i>“Where noise impacts are likely to arise from the proposed development, the applicant should include the following in the noise assessment:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>a description of the noise generating aspects of the development proposal leading to noise impacts, including the identification of any distinctive tonal characteristics, if the noise is impulsive, whether the noise contains particular high or low frequency content or any temporal characteristics of the noise</i> • <i>identification of noise sensitive receptors and noise sensitive areas that may be affected</i> • <i>the characteristics of the existing noise environment</i> • <i>a prediction of how the noise environment would change with the proposed development</i> 	Noise and Vibration

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — <i>in the shorter term, such as during the construction period</i> — <i>in the longer term, during the operating life of the infrastructure</i> — <i>at particular times of the day, evening and night (and weekends) as appropriate, and at different times of year.</i> • <i>an assessment of the effect of predicted changes in the noise environment on any noise-sensitive receptors, including an assessment of any likely impact on health and quality of life / well-being where appropriate, particularly among those disadvantaged by other factors who are often disproportionately affected by noise-sensitive areas.</i> • <i>if likely to cause disturbance, an assessment of the effect of underwater or subterranean noise.</i> <p><i>all reasonable steps taken to mitigate and minimise potential adverse effects on health and quality of life”.</i></p>	
Paragraph 5.12.7	The nature and extent of the noise assessment should be proportionate to the likely noise impact.	Noise and Vibration
Paragraph 5.12.8	Applicants should consider the noise impact of ancillary activities associated with the development, such as increased road and rail traffic movements, or other forms of transportation.	Noise and Vibration
Paragraph 5.12.9	<p>Paragraph states that: “<i>Operational noise, with respect to human receptors, should be assessed using the principles of the relevant British Standards and other guidance</i>”.</p> <p>It further describes “<i>For the prediction, assessment and management of construction noise, reference should be made to any relevant British Standards and other guidance which also give examples of mitigation strategies</i>”.</p>	Noise and Vibration
Paragraph 5.2.2 to paragraph 5.2.7	These paragraphs prompt the consideration of environmental assessment levels (Limit Values and Objectives), human and ecological receptors as a means of informing any required air quality assessment.	Air Quality
Paragraph 5.2.8	<p>Outlines that:</p> <p><i>“The ES should describe:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>existing air quality concentrations and the relative change in air quality from existing levels;</i> • <i>any significant air quality effects, mitigation action taken and any residual effects, distinguishing between the project</i> 	Air Quality

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	<p><i>stages and taking account of any significant emissions from any road traffic generated by the project;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• the predicted absolute emissions, concentration change and absolute concentrations as a result of the proposed project, after mitigation methods have been applied; and</i> <i>• any potential eutrophication impacts”.</i> <p>Should the screening of traffic data for any of the proposed development’ stages indicate that detailed assessment is required, then dispersion modelling would be undertaken as part of the air quality assessment to determine the impact of pollutant concentrations resulting from the proposed development at relevant sensitive human and ecological receptors.</p>	
Paragraph 5.2.10	Should the proposed development be expected to lead to a breach of any relevant statutory air quality limits, objectives or targets, or affect the ability of a non-compliant area to achieve compliance, relevant mitigation to reduce significant adverse environmental effects will be proposed.	Air Quality
Paragraph 5.2.14	<p>This paragraph explains that with regards to decision making, the SoS would give air quality considerations substantial weight where a project leads to a new breach of Limit Values and/or statutory air quality objectives, or where it makes an existing breach worse. It also adds that air quality considerations will be important where substantial increases in pollutant concentrations below these thresholds.</p> <p>Therefore, changes in pollutant concentrations in AQMAS and on Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs Pollution Climate Mapping (PCM) links (as a means of assessing compliance risk with Limit Values) are expected to be key considerations for the proposed development.</p>	Air Quality
Paragraphs 5.2.15 to 5.2.17	These sections state that air quality would be given substantial weight if located near sensitive human and ecological receptors. If the applicant cannot justify the location or provide a suitable plan of mitigation, the SoS would refuse consent.	Air Quality
Paragraph 5.1.17	This paragraph re-emphasises that air quality environmental assessment levels (statutory Limit Values and Objectives) must be taken into account in decision making, but that consent would be refused if the construction and/or operational phase of the proposed development leads to non-compliance with a Limit Value.	Air Quality
Section 5.13	Sets out an overall approach to energy infrastructure from a socio-economic perspective.	Socio-economics,

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
		Recreation and Tourism
Section 5.13.4	Details some of the likely economic impacts that should be considered as part of any assessment.	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
Section 5.13.10	States that it may be concluded “ <i>that limited weight is to be given to assertions of socio-economic impacts that are not supported by evidence (particularly in view of the need for energy infrastructure as set out in the NPS)</i> ”.	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
Paragraph 4.3.1 – 4.3.5	The National Policy Statement details that an ES should assess effects for each element of the project, identifying measures to avoid, reduce or compensate for health impacts. The policy highlights that effects resulting from other environmental topics should be assessed, but that regulation of these topics is considered effective mitigation.	Health and Wellbeing
Section 4.4	The National Policy Statement details that an ES should assess effects on health and wellbeing, including from related topics and indirect impacts. The NPS particularly highlights potential impacts on vulnerable groups within society and those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act (2010).	Health and Wellbeing
National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2024)		
Section 2.5 Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain	“Recognition that the linear nature of electricity networks infrastructure can allow for excellent opportunities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. reconnect important habitats via green corridors, biodiversity stepping zones, and reestablishment of appropriate hedgerows; and/or ii. connect people to the environment, for instance via footpaths and cycleways constructed in tandem with environmental enhancements.” 	Biodiversity
Section 2.9, paragraphs 2.9.19, 2.9.25.	Requires that applicants should seek to avoid altogether internationally and national designated areas of cultural value, which includes all historic sites with statutory protection. Development of underground cables should consider the potentially very disruptive effects on archaeological and historical assets.	Cultural Heritage
Paragraph 2.9.9	“New substations, sealing end compounds (including terminal towers), and other above-ground installations that	Landscape and Visual Amenity

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	<i>serve as connection, switching, and voltage transformation points on the electricity network may also give rise to adverse landscape and visual impacts.”</i>	
Paragraph 2.9.10	<i>“Cumulative adverse landscape, seascape and visual impacts may arise where new overhead lines are required along with other related developments such as substations, wind farms, and/or other new sources of generation.”</i>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Paragraph 2.9.11	<i>“Landscape and visual benefits may arise through the reconfiguration, rationalisation, or undergrounding of existing electricity network infrastructure. Though mitigation of the landscape and visual impacts arising from overhead lines and their associated infrastructure is usually possible, it may not always be so, and the impossibility of full mitigation in these cases does not countermand the need for overhead lines.”</i>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Paragraph 2.9.14	<i>“Where the nature or proposed route of an overhead line will likely result in particularly significant landscape and visual impacts, as would be assessed through landscape, seascape and visual impact assessment, the applicant should demonstrate that they have given due consideration to the costs and benefits of feasible alternatives to the overhead line. This could include – where appropriate – re-routing, underground or subsea cables and the feasibility e.g. in cost, engineering or environmental terms of these.”</i>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Section 2.3	<p>This section of EN-5 covers resilience to climate change and the need to look to design for flood resilience. Paragraph 2.3.2 states <i>“Applicants should in particular set out to what extent the proposed development is expected to be vulnerable, and, as appropriate, how it would be resilient to flooding, particularly for substations that are vital for the electricity transmission and distribution network”</i>.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.3.3 advises that <i>“the resilience of the project to the effects of climate change must be assessed in the Environmental Statement (ES) accompanying an application”, also stating that ‘future increased risk of flooding would be covered in any flood risk assessment’.</i></p>	Water Environment
Paragraph 2.9.25	<i>The policy acknowledges the “potential disruptive effects of undergrounding on local communities, habitats, archaeological and heritage assets, marine environments, soil (including peat soils), hydrology, geology, and, for a substantial time after construction, landscape and visual amenity”.</i>	Geology and Hydrogeology
Paragraph 2.9.25 (final bullet point)	This paragraph highlights the requirement to minimise impacts on agricultural land and soil resources. That appropriate surveys should be undertaken to inform these	Agriculture and Soils

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	assessments, and that mitigation should be in line with Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs Construction Code of Practice for Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites.	
Paragraph 2.9.58	<i>“There is little evidence that exposure of crops, farm animals or natural ecosystems to transmission line EMFs [Electromagnetic Fields] has any agriculturally significant consequences.”</i>	Agriculture and Soils
Paragraph 2.9.26	All high voltage transmission lines have the potential to generate noise under certain conditions.	Noise and Vibration
Paragraph 2.9.27 - 2.9.26	These paragraphs set the context of the potential for adverse noise effects that may be associated with the operation of overhead lines and overhead line fittings such as spacers, insulators and clamps. Paragraph 2.9.34 notes that transmission line audible noise is <i>“generally categorised as ‘crackle’ or ‘hum’, according to its tonal content”</i> .	Noise and Vibration
Paragraph 2.9.37 – 2.9.39	Paragraphs note the potential audible noise effects that can arise from substation equipment such as transformers, quadrature boosters and mechanically switched capacitors which can generate low frequency hum. EN-5 also state that <i>“For the assessment of noise from substations, standard methods of assessment and interpretation using the principles of the relevant British Standards are satisfactory”</i> .	Noise and Vibration
Paragraph 2.9.40 – 2.9.42	It is noted within EN-5 that: <i>“For the assessment of noise from overhead lines, the applicant must use an appropriate method to determine the sound level produced by the line in both dry and wet weather conditions, in addition to assessing the impact on noise-sensitive receptors.</i> <i>For instance, the applicant may use an appropriate noise modelling tool or tools for the prediction of overhead line noise and its propagation over distance, such as an ISO 9613-2 or Technical Report TR(T)94.</i> <i>When assessing the impact of noise generated by overhead lines in wet weather relative to existing background sound levels, the applicant should consider the effect of varying background sound levels due to rainfall”</i> .	Noise and Vibration
N/A	Supports EN-1 by providing guidance on new electricity networks infrastructure to ensure it is well designed. It includes advice on landscape and visual and noise and vibration matters which may have a bearing on the socio-economic, tourism and recreation assessment.	Socioeconomics, Recreation and Tourism

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
Paragraph 2.9.44 – 2.8.58	The Policy Statement states that the applicant must consider a series of factors in relation to Electric and magnetic Fields (EMFs), requiring compliance with International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) limits, and mitigation such as re-routing, undergrounding or increased clearances to ensure this. It is noted that it is not the government's policy for power lines to be undergrounded solely for the purpose of EMF mitigation.	Health and Wellbeing
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2024)		
Paragraphs 8c, 189, 193, 194 and 195	<p>The NPPF supports the delivery of net gains for biodiversity through sustainable development and seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity (including “<i>minimising impacts</i>”), promote conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species.</p> <p>LPA's should assess if significant harm would occur to biodiversity and refuse planning permission if such harm cannot be avoided, mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated for. Further, the NPPF advises that “<i>development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists.</i>”</p> <p>The NPPF also identifies that Ramsar sites, proposed Ramsar sites, potential SPAs (pSPA) and possible SACs (pSAC) are also considered in the same way as SACs, SPAs and candidate SACs (cSACs).</p>	Biodiversity
Section 15	Paragraphs 202-212 relate to the historic environment and its sustainable management with regards to proposed development. It defines heritage assets and why they should be conserved.	Cultural Heritage
Paragraph 170 to 182	These paragraphs relate to flood risk and surface water drainage and their sustainable management with regards to proposed development. They describe two planning tests, the sequential test, which encourages development in areas at low risk of flooding, and the exception test. This is applied where development in flood risk areas cannot be avoided, and requires that development provides wider sustainability benefits that outweigh the flood risk and will be safe for its lifetime within increasing flood risk elsewhere.	Water Environment
Paragraph 187	<i>“Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes (in a manner commensurate</i>	Landscape and Visual Amenity

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	<i>with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan)."</i>	
Paragraph 189	<i>"Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (recently renamed 'National Landscapes') which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas."</i>	
Paragraph 187 a, b, c, e	<p><i>"Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:</i></p> <p><i>Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils...</i></p> <p><i>Recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside...including the economic and other benefits of the BMV agricultural land...; and</i></p> <p><i>Preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability."</i></p>	Agriculture and Soils
Paragraph 188, Footnote 65	This footnote states that schemes should not be built on BMV land without justification, and poorer quality land should be used preferentially. Emphasis on the availability of land for food production.	Agriculture and Soils
Paragraph 116	In terms of transport, a development should only be prevented or refused on highways grounds if there would be unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe.	Traffic and Transport
Paragraph 118	All developments that will generate significant amounts of movement should be required to provide a travel plan, and the application should be supported by a Transport Statement (TS) or Transport Assessment (TA) so that the likely impacts of the proposal can be assessed.	Traffic and Transport
Paragraph 198 a, b	Planning decisions should mitigate and reduce to a minimum adverse impact and avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life from noise from new development; tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value should be identified and protected.	Noise and Vibration

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
Paragraph 187 e	Planning decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of noise pollution.	Noise and Vibration
Paragraph 199	The NPPF states that decisions and policies should regard Limit Values or national Objectives and take into account AQMAs and Clean Air Zones as well as cumulative impacts. Mitigation should be identified.	Air Quality
Paragraph 86a Paragraph 96c	Sets out national planning policies in accordance with the relevant NPS. Chapter 6 includes policies aimed at building a strong, competitive economy and Chapter 8 includes policies aimed at promoting healthy and safe communities.	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
Paragraph 96 – 102.	The NPPF sets out a series of objectives and priorities for planning in England and how they should be applied. The overarching aim includes a social objective to support strong and healthy communities, with accessible services and open spaces. Section 8 specifies the objectives for promoting healthy and safe communities.	Health and Wellbeing
National Highways		
Department for Transport Circular 01/2022 “The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development” (Ref 12.12)	<p>Sets out the ways in which National Highways will engage with the development industry, public bodies and communities to assist the delivery of sustainable development.</p> <p>Environmental assessments must be comprehensive enough to establish the likely impacts on air quality, light pollution and noise arising from traffic generated by a development, along with the impacts from any proposed works to the SRN and identify measures to mitigate these impacts.</p> <p>Requirements and advice for undertaking environmental assessments in respect of transport impacts can be found in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB).</p>	Traffic and Transport
Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE)		
Paragraph 1.6	Sets out the long-term vision of Government noise policy, i.e. to “ <i>promote good health and a good quality of life through the effective management of noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development</i> ”.	Noise and Vibration
Paragraph 1.7	The NPSE vision is supported by aims to effectively manage and control environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development by avoiding significant adverse impacts,	Noise and Vibration

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	mitigating and minimising adverse impacts and contributing to the improvement of health and quality of life.	
Paragraph 2.20	<p><i>“To identify ‘significant adverse’ and ‘adverse’ impact in line with the three aims of NPSE there are two established concepts from toxicology that are currently being applied to noise impacts, for example, by the World Health Organization:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• No Observed Effect Level (NOEL): This is the level below which no effect can be detected. In simple terms, below this level, there is no detectable effect on health and quality of life due to the noise</i> <i>• Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level (LOAEL): This is the level above which adverse effects on health and quality of life can be detected. Extending these concepts for the purpose of this NPSE leads to the concept of a significant observed adverse effect level.</i> <p><i>Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level (SOAEL). This is the level above which significant adverse effects on health and quality of life occur”.</i></p>	Noise and Vibration
Paragraph 2.24	<i>“Where an impact lies somewhere between LOAEL and SOAEL all reasonable steps should be taken to mitigate and minimise adverse effects on health and quality of life while also taking into account the guiding principles of sustainable development. This does not mean that such adverse effects cannot occur”.</i>	Noise and Vibration
Paragraph 2.22	<p>The NPSE notes that <i>“it is not possible to have a single objective noise-based measure that defines SOAEL that is applicable to all sources of noise in all situations.</i></p> <p><i>Consequently, the SOAEL is likely to be different for different noise sources, for different receptors and at different times. It is acknowledged that further research is required to increase our understanding of what may constitute a significant adverse impact on health and quality of life from noise.</i></p> <p><i>However, not having specific SOAEL values in the NPSE provides the necessary policy flexibility until further evidence and suitable guidance is available”.</i></p>	Noise and Vibration
National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)		
Air Quality	Provides guidance on the relevant principals of air quality assessment; including the regulatory framework, the role of plan making, available air quality information, when assessment is required, what potential air quality issues require consideration, the level of detail required, and mitigation.	Air Quality

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
Flood Risk and Coastal Change	Advises how to take account of and address the risks associated with flooding and coastal change in the planning process.	Water Environment
Environmental Improvement Plan (2023)		
Goal 2 – Clean air	Details government actions to reduce air pollution over next 25 years to achieve ‘clean air’ as a means of complying with concentration and emissions reduction targets, such as those facilitated by the Environment Act (2021). The delivery plan focuses on reducing domestic emissions, empowering local authorities to deliver clean air, maintaining and improving the regulatory framework for industrial emissions, reducing agricultural ammonia emissions and reducing emissions from transport.	Air Quality

Table 1.2.A-3 - Local Planning Policy relevant to the environmental aspect chapters

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
Southeast Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036, (adopted March 2019)		
Policy 28: The Natural Environment	A high quality, comprehensive ecological network of interconnected designated sites, sites of nature conservation importance and wildlife-friendly greenspace would be achieved by protecting, enhancing and managing natural assets, including: internationally-designated sites, on land or at sea; nationally or locally-designated sites, and addressing gaps in the ecological network. Development proposals that affect such assets will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.	Biodiversity
	Policy 28 sets the Council’s position on how proposed development can take a role in addressing gaps in the ecological network including through the conservation and enhancement of geodiversity features.	Geology and Hydrogeology
Policy 4: Approach to Flood Risk	Development proposed within an area at risk of flooding will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the sequential test is passed, wider sustainability benefits to the community that outweigh flood risk are delivered, an appropriate level of safety for its lifetime is maintained and that the proposal will not increase risk elsewhere.	Water Environment

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
Policy 30: Pollution	<p>Sets out that development proposals cannot lead to unacceptable adverse impacts on the health and safety of the public, amenities of the area, and the natural, historic and built environment.</p> <p>The policy further states that development on contaminated land, or where there is reason to suspect contamination, must include an assessment of the extent of contamination and any possible risks.</p> <p>The policy also notes the requirement to protect surface and groundwater quality.</p>	Geology and Hydrogeology
	<p><i>“Development proposals will not be permitted where, taking account of any proposed mitigation measures, they would lead to unacceptable adverse impacts upon:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. health and safety of the public;</i> <i>2. the amenities of the area; or</i> <i>3. the natural, historic and built environment;</i> <p><i>by way of:</i></p> <p><i>[....]</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>5. noise including vibration;</i> <p><i>[...]</i></p> <p><i>Suitable mitigation measures will be provided, if required. Proposals will be refused if impacts cannot be suitably mitigated or avoided”.</i></p>	Noise and Vibration
	<p>Indicates that development proposals would not be permitted where, taking account for mitigation measures, they would lead to adverse effects upon air quality. Assessment must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • impact on the given development from poor air quality from identified sources; • impact on air quality from the given development; and • impact on amenity from existing uses 	Air Quality
	<p>Development proposals will not be permitted where they would lead to unacceptable adverse impacts upon surface and groundwater quality</p>	Water Environment
Policy 29: The Historic Environment	<p>Distinctive elements of the Southeast Lincolnshire historic environment would be conserved and, where appropriate, enhanced. Opportunities to identify a</p>	Cultural Heritage

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	<p>heritage asset's contribution to the economy, tourism, education and the local community would be utilised including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The historic archaeological and drainage landscape of the Fens. • The distinctive character of Southeast Lincolnshire market towns and villages. • The dominance within the landscape of church towers, spires and historic windmills. <p>To respect the historical legacy, varied character and appearance of Southeast Lincolnshire's historic environment, development proposals would conserve and enhance the character and appearance of designated and non-designated heritage assets, such as important known archaeology or that found during development, historic buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, street patterns, streetscapes, landscapes, parks (including Registered Parks and Gardens), river frontages, structures and their settings through high-quality sensitive design.</p>	
Policy 3: Design of New Development.	<p>Provides information on policy regarding development proposals demonstrating security of the landscape character of the location.</p> <p>Development proposals will demonstrate how the following issues directly related to transport will be secured; accessibility by a choice of travel modes and the provision of facilities for accessing and servicing the proposal.</p>	<p>Landscape and Visual Amenity</p> <p>Traffic and Transport</p>
Paragraph 7.4.4	This paragraph discusses the measures needed to address impacts on soils, with particular reference to the Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs Construction Code of Practice.	Agriculture and Soils
Paragraph 7.5.10	This paragraph states the preference for lower quality agricultural land to be used where possible, as well as the importance of assessing the impacts on soils and agricultural land as a separate environmental receptor.	
Policy 6 (Developer Contributions)	Developments will be expected to mitigate their impacts upon infrastructure, services, and the environment to ensure such developments are acceptable.	Traffic and Transport

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	<p>Developer contributions will only be sought when they meet the tests set out in paragraph 56 of the NPPF, or any successor.</p> <p>Developers will either make direct provision or will contribute towards the provision of local and strategic infrastructure and services required by the development, either alone or cumulatively with other developments.</p>	
Policy 33 (Delivering a More Sustainable Transport Network)	The Local Planning Authorities will work with partners to make the best use of, and seek improvements to, existing transport infrastructure and services within, and connecting to Southeast Lincolnshire, having considered first solutions that are based on better promotion and management of the existing network and the provision of sustainable forms of travel.	Traffic and Transport
Policy 36 (Vehicle and Cycle Parking)	All new development, including change of use, should provide vehicle and cycle parking, in accordance with the minimum parking standards adopted by the Local Planning Authorities.	Traffic and Transport
Policy 2 Development Management	<p><i>“Proposals requiring planning permission for development will be permitted provided that sustainable development considerations are met, specifically in relation to:</i></p> <p><i>[....]</i></p> <p><i>6. impact upon neighbouring land uses by reason of noise, odour, disturbance or visual intrusion;”</i></p>	Noise and Vibration
Policy 31 Climate Change and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	<p><i>“B. Renewable Energy</i></p> <p><i>With the exception of Wind Energy, the development of renewable energy facilities, associated infrastructure and the integration of decentralised technologies on existing or proposed structures will be permitted provided, individually, or cumulatively, there would be no significant harm to:</i></p> <p><i>[...]</i></p> <p><i>2. residential amenity in respect of: noise, fumes, odour, vibration, shadow flicker, sunlight reflection, broadcast interference, traffic;</i></p> <p><i>[...]</i></p> <p><i>Provision should be made for post-construction monitoring and the removal of the facility and reinstatement of the site if the development ceases to be operational. Proposals by a local community for the development of renewable and low carbon sources of energy, in scale with their community’s</i></p>	Noise and Vibration

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	<p><i>requirements, including supporting infrastructure for renewable energy projects, will be supported and considered in the context of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development and meeting the challenge of climate change and against criteria B1-7”.</i></p> <p>All development proposals will be required to demonstrate that the consequences of current climate change have been addressed, minimised and mitigated.</p>	Water Environment
Policy 32: Community, Health and Wellbeing	<p>The Southeast Lincolnshire Local Plan is a shared partnership between Boston Borough Council, South Holland District and Lincolnshire Council Councils. The Local Plan sets out several policies for the benefit of community health and wellbeing, including Policy 32: Community, Health and Wellbeing, which states that “<i>development shall contribute to the creation of inclusive communities and facilitating walking and public rights of way</i>”. The policy also supports the development of community facilities and protects against the redevelopment of such sites.</p> <p>Development shall contribute to: the creation of socially-cohesive and inclusive communities; reducing health inequalities; and improving the community’s health and well-being.</p>	Health and Wellbeing Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
Policy 7: Improving Southeast Lincolnshire’s Employment Land Portfolio	The Southeast Lincolnshire authorities would, in principle, support proposals which assist in the delivery of economic prosperity and jobs in the area.	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
Policy 9: Promoting a Stronger Visitor Economy	Proposals for tourism and visitor development which utilise and enrich the natural and built environment and existing attractions of Southeast Lincolnshire to the benefit of the local economy, visitors and local communities would be supported.	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
East Lindsey District Council (East Lindsey Local Plan Core Strategy), (adopted July 2018)		
Strategic Policy 24 (SP24) - Biodiversity and Geodiversity	Development proposals should seek to protect and enhance the biodiversity value of land and buildings and minimise fragmentation and maximise opportunities for connection between natural habitats.	Biodiversity

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	<p>The Council would protect sites designated internationally, national or locally for their biodiversity importance, species populations and habitats identified in the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan and the NERC Act (2006). Development which could adversely affect such a site would only be permitted in exceptional circumstances. If adverse impacts are demonstrated to be unavoidable, the Council would ensure that such damage is kept to a minimum and would ensure appropriate mitigation, compensation or enhancement of the site through the use of planning conditions or planning obligations.</p>	
	<p>Paragraph 12.17 Emphasises the multifaceted importance of soils to a landscape and the environment and highlights the role of soils in carbon capture. Reference is made to the Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs Construction Code of Practice</p>	Agriculture and Soils
	<p>Policy SP24, sets out how development should protect and enhance the biodiversity and geodiversity of land and buildings, noting a requirement to protect sites designated internationally, nationally and locally for the geodiversity importance. Policy 24 also notes the potential risks of pollution from nearby development.</p>	Geology and Hydrogeology
Strategic Policy 25 (SP25) – Green Infrastructure	<p>The Council will safeguard and deliver a network of accessible green infrastructure by protecting and safeguarding green space, maximising opportunities for new and enhanced green infrastructure and publicly accessible open spaces in and around all communities and seek opportunities to connect existing green infrastructure to improve the network of spaces and accessibility for both the local population and wildlife.</p>	Biodiversity
Strategic Policy (SP) 16: Inland Flood Risk	<p>Proposals in areas at risk of flooding must be accompanied by a site-specific flood risk assessment and that development will be supported that demonstrates an integrated approach to sustainable drainage.</p>	Water Environment

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
Strategic Policy 10 (SP10) – Design.	This paragraph states that schemes should not be built on BMV land without justification, and poorer quality land should be used preferentially. Emphasis on maintaining character of the surrounding villages and countryside.	Agriculture and Soils
	Developers are encouraged to carry out a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) commensurate with the size and nature of the development to show how they have factored this into their proposal	Health and Wellbeing
Strategic Policy 22 (SP22) (Transport and Accessibility)	SP22 outlines how East Lindsey would support accessibility and seek to reduce isolation.	Traffic and Transport
	The Plan sets out how landscape, green infrastructure, open space and access to facilities can create an attractive and healthy working and living environment.	Health and Wellbeing
Strategic Policy 23 (SP23): Landscape	The Biodiversity and Geodiversity section of SP23 (Landscape) outlines that developments can impact upon sites protected for their biodiversity importance, this includes air pollution caused by increased traffic movements and operational needs of a given development.	Air Quality
	<p>1. <i>“The District’s landscapes will be protected, enhanced, used and managed to provide an attractive and healthy working and living environment. Development will be guided by the District’s Landscape Character Assessment and landscapes defined as highly sensitive will be afforded the greatest protection.”</i></p> <p>3. <i>“The Council will ensure that the distinctive character of the District’s landscapes whether they are of cultural, natural or historic significance, will not be compromised. In particular, the highest level of protection would be given to the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which is designated at a national level because of its landscape quality.”</i></p>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Strategic Policy 11 (SP11) – Historic Environment	<p>The Council would support proposals that secure the continued protection and enhancement of heritage assets in East Lindsey, contribute to the wider vitality and regeneration of the areas in which they are located and reinforce a strong sense of place.</p> <p>Proposals would be supported where they:</p>	Cultural Heritage

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve or enhance heritage assets and their setting. • Preserve or enhance the special character, appearance and setting of the District's conservation areas. • Do not harm the site or setting of a scheduled monument; any unscheduled nationally important or locally significant archaeological site. <p>Are compatible with the significance of non-designated heritage assets in East Lindsey.</p>	
Strategic Policy 27 (SP27) – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	<p><i>“1. Large-scale renewable and low carbon energy development, development for the transmission and interconnection of electricity, and infrastructure required to support such development, will be supported where their individual or cumulative impact is, when weighed against the benefits, considered to be acceptable in relation to:</i></p> <p><i>a) residential amenity;</i></p> <p><i>c) the significance (including the setting) of a historic garden, park, battlefield, building, conservation area, archaeological site or other heritage asset;</i></p> <p><i>d) sites or features of biodiversity or geodiversity importance, or protected species;</i></p> <p><i>3. Development within or affecting the setting of the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and landscape areas defined as highly sensitive within the East Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment, would only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, where the development is in the public interest and considering the following:</i></p> <p><i>c) any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be satisfactorily moderated.</i></p> <p><i>3.[sic] The presumption would be for connecting cables to be placed underground, or use made of existing or replacement infrastructure (of the same size and scale) along existing routes to carry any additional base load cabling”.</i></p>	Noise and Vibration

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
Strategic Policy 28 (SP28) – Infrastructure and S106 Obligations	<p><i>“1. Infrastructure schemes would be supported provided they are essential in the national interest; contribute to sustainable development and respect the distinctive character of the district.</i></p> <p><i>2. Infrastructure schemes should be accompanied by an impact assessment that shows how the proposal impacts on the landscape or local setting of the area, including individual and cumulative effects. It should identify what steps have been taken to minimize its effects and the alternative options that have been considered”.</i></p>	Noise and Vibration
Strategic Policy 2 (SP2): Sustainable Development	<i>When considering development proposals, the Council would take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the NPPF.</i>	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
Strategic Policy 13 (SP13): Inland Employment	The Council would support growth and diversification of the local economy by identifying and protecting employment land, and by supporting proposals that strengthen the rural economy.	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
Strategic Policy 15 (SP15): Widening the Inland Tourism and Leisure Economy	The Council would support quality tourism facilities and attractions where then benefit the tourism and leisure economy and provide employment opportunities.	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
Strategic Policy 17 (SP17): Coastal East Lindsey	The Council would give a high priority to development that extends and diversifies all-year round employment opportunities, contributes directly to the local economy, infrastructure or extends and diversifies the tourism market.	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
Strategic Policy 19 (SP19): Holiday Accommodation	Whilst the Council supports development that adds to the tourism and employment opportunities on the coast, it would seek to limit the negative environmental impacts resulting from this type of development.	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
Strategic Policy 20 (SP20): Visitor Economy	The Council will support developments which adds to the scope of holiday facilities and attractions at local holiday destinations, and where the proposals support the economy and conforms to sustainable development principles.	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
Strategic Policy 26 (SP26): Open Space, Sport and Recreation	The Council will support development that facilitates the Council's aspiration to increase participation in sports and physical activity. The Council will safeguard, expand, enhance and promote access to sports and recreational facilities and open spaces.	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism

[...]

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	<p><i>The granting or refusal of planning permission for wind turbines will be informed by up-to-date local evidence and, if produced as anticipated, a Resource Use Supplementary Planning Document.</i></p> <p><i>Renewable energy proposals which will directly benefit a local community in the medium and long term and/or are targeted at residents experiencing fuel poverty will be particularly supported”.</i></p>	
Policy LP2: Facilitating Health and Wellbeing of Fenland Residents	The Plan sets out a number of policies and states that the aims are underpinned by health targets. A number of policies are in place to ensure development would contribute to the goal of highest attainable standard of health and improve wellbeing.	Health and Wellbeing
Policy LP18 – The Historic Environment	<p>All development proposals that would affect any designated or undesignated heritage asset will be required to:</p> <p>(a) describe and assess the significance of the asset and/or its setting to determine its architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and</p> <p>(b) identify the impact of the proposed works on the special character of the asset; and</p> <p>(c) provide a clear justification for the works, especially if these would harm the asset or its setting, so that the harm can be weighed against public benefits.</p> <p>The level of detail required should be proportionate to the asset’s importance and sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on its significance and/or setting.</p> <p>All development proposals that would affect a heritage asset will be determined in accordance with local policy in this Plan and national policy in the NPPF. Where permission is granted, a programme of work and/or the implementation of any necessary mitigation measures may be secured by condition or as part of a planning obligation in order to minimise any adverse impact.</p>	Cultural Heritage
Policy LP16: Delivering and Protecting High Quality Environments across the District.	<p>Outlines that proposals for all new developments will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that the proposal meets the following criteria:</p> <p>protects and enhances biodiversity on and surrounding the proposal site, considering locally designated sites and the special protection given to internationally and nationally designated sites; and</p>	Air Quality

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	<p>identifies, manages and mitigates against any existing or proposed risks from sources of emissions and pollution.</p> <p>Policy to ensure that development does not adversely impact, either in design or scale terms, the landscape character of the surrounding area.</p> <p>Sets out that the Council will only permit development that identifies, manages and mitigates against any existing or proposed risks from sources of pollution and contamination. This also accounts for the protection of groundwater resources for future uses.</p> <p><i>“High quality environments will be delivered and protected throughout the district. Proposals for all new development, including where appropriate advertisements and extensions and alterations to existing buildings, will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that the proposal meets all of the following relevant criteria:</i></p> <p><i>façade does not adversely impact on the amenity of neighbouring users such as noise, light pollution, loss of privacy and loss of light.</i></p> <p><i>(I) identifies, manages and mitigates against any existing or proposed risks from sources of noise, emissions, pollution, contamination, odour and dust, vibration, landfill gas and protects from water body deterioration”.</i></p>	<p>Landscape and Visual Amenity</p> <p>Geology and Hydrogeology</p> <p>Noise and Vibration</p>
Policy LP1: A Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	When considering development proposals, Fenland District Council would take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. The Council will work to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions.	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
Policy LP6: Employment, Tourism, Community Facilities and Retail	<p>Opportunities for jobs growth in the district will be maximised, and the Council will facilitate the delivery of new employment land to provide for business, industrial and distribution uses.</p> <p>The Tourism and visitor industry will be supported by welcoming new accommodation and attractions, and retaining hotels. Existing cultural, tourism and visitor facilities will be protected and where possible enhanced.</p>	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	Proposals that would lead to the loss of community facilities will only be permitted if it meets certain criteria that preserves the availability of the services.	
Policy LP12: Rural Area Development Policy	For rural settlements, new development will be supported where it contributes to the sustainability of that settlement and does not harm the wide-open character of the countryside.	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Council (Local Development Framework - Core Strategy, (adopted July 2011))		
Policy CS08 Sustainable Development	All new development in the Borough should be of high-quality design. New development would be required to demonstrate its ability to (amongst other things) enhance the quality of the environment, optimise site potential and achieve high standards of sustainable design. These will be achieved through construction techniques, innovative use of re-used or recycled materials, reduction of on-site emissions by generation of cleaner energy and provision of green space.	Biodiversity
	Policy CS08 highlights the Council's preference for new development to optimise site potential and making best use of brownfield sites.	Geology and Hydrogeology
	In preparing for population growth in the Borough it is imperative that proposals for new development and redevelopment are based on sound design principles. The Council will support developments of high-quality design and promote and encourage opportunities that achieve high standards of sustainability and energy efficiency.	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
Policy CS12 Environmental Assets	<p>Proposals to protect and enhance biodiversity will be encouraged and supported. The Borough Council would ensure an integrated network of green infrastructure throughout urban and rural areas is successfully created and managed.</p> <p>The Council will support Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) and protect and enhance a variety of sites important for wildlife including County Wildlife Sites and ancient woodlands and BAP habitats.</p> <p>Developments should seek to avoid, mitigate or compensate for any adverse impacts on biodiversity. The Council will require development proposals to be accompanied by an ecological impact study and</p>	Biodiversity

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	assessment proportionate to the degree of the impact and importance of the species affected.	
	The historic and built environment play a crucial role in delivering environmental quality and well-being. Therefore, the Council will preserve and where appropriate enhance its qualities and characteristics.	Cultural Heritage
	Policy to ensure that development proposals protect and enhance landscape character	Landscape and Visual Amenity
	Sets the Council's approach to protecting and enhancing geodiversity with the aim of creating a high-quality environment for biodiversity and geodiversity to flourish. Development should seek to avoid, mitigate or compensate for any adverse impacts on biodiversity, geodiversity and heritage as well as seeking to enhance sites through the creation of features of new biodiversity, geodiversity and heritage interest.	Geology and Hydrogeology
Policy CS07 Development in Coastal Areas	The Council will protect and enhance the cultural heritage qualities of the coast including designated and undesignated archaeological assets.	Cultural Heritage
	The council will ensure that any development on the coast is sustainable and able to withstand the effects of climate change.	Water Environment
Strategic Policy (SP) 16: Inland Flood Risk	Proposals in areas at risk of flooding must be accompanied by a site-specific flood risk assessment and development will be supported that demonstrates an integrated approach to sustainable drainage.	Water Environment
Policy CS10: The Economy	<p>The local economy is to be developed sustainably to facilitate job growth in the local economy and increase the proportion of higher skilled jobs. Retail, tourism, leisure, and cultural industries are key elements of the economic and social vibrancy of the Borough, and contribute to the regeneration and growth of the area. The Council will promote opportunities to improve and enhance the visitor economy.</p> <p>The Council will support the rural economy and diversification through a rural exception approach to new development within the countryside.</p>	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
Policy CS13: Community & Culture	<p>To ensure that people have the opportunity to exercise and improve their health the Council will support proposals that protect, retain or enhance sports, leisure and recreation facilities.</p> <p>The Council recognises the importance of community facilities and services to improving people's quality of life, reducing inequality and improving community cohesion.</p>	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
Lincolnshire County Council (Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Core Strategy and Development Management Policies, (adopted June 2016)		
Strategic Objective H	A Strategic Objective of the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan is to <i>"protect Lincolnshire's high quality agricultural land... and soil where practicable from development; and in cases where it is affected, safeguard its long-term potential by encouraging restoration back to agriculture, or protection of soils through restoration schemes to biodiversity where soils are cared for in a sustainable manner, enabling habitat creation in addition to soil preservation for future agricultural needs."</i>	Biodiversity
Policy DM1: Presumption in favour of sustainable development	The County Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the NPPF. It will always work proactively with applicants jointly to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.	Biodiversity Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
Paragraph 3.12	"The county of Lincolnshire has a diverse and distinctive landscape. Landscape character - what makes a particular area unique - is an important aspect to be taken into account when considering the impacts of development"	Landscape and Visual Amenity
North East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2013 to 2032). (adopted 2018)		
Policy 42: Landscape	<i>"Landscape character should be given due consideration in the nature, location, design and implementation of development proposals".</i>	Landscape and Visual
Norfolk County Council Core Strategy and Minerals and Waste Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (2010-2026) (adopted September 2011)		
Core Strategy Policy CS14 – Environmental protection.	Developments must ensure that there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on, and ideally improvements to the character and quality of the	Landscape and Visual Amenity

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	landscape and townscape, including nationally designated landscapes (the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads).	
Development Management Policy DM8 – Design, local landscape and townscape character.	Policy to ensure that development applicants will be expected to show how their proposals will address impacts on landscape and townscape. This includes assessment of landscape and townscape character and sensitivity.	Landscape and Visual Amenity
The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan (adopted 28 July 2021)		
Policy 5: Mineral Safeguarding Areas	Sets out the Mineral Planning Authority's approach to safeguarding potential economic minerals from non-minerals development. Policy sets out criteria to trigger consultation with the Mineral Planning Authority	Geology and Hydrogeology
Policy 6: Mineral Development Areas	Sets out the Mineral Planning Authority's approach to protecting sites (both with and without planning permission) which have been strategically allocated for future mineral extraction within the Local Plan.	Geology and Hydrogeology
Policy 15: Transport Infrastructure Areas	Identifies strategic transport areas such as wharves, railheads (both existing and planned) which support in the sustainable transport of minerals and waste.	Geology and Hydrogeology
Policy 16: Consultation Areas	Allocates a buffer around the strategically allocated areas covered by the Local Plan in which non-minerals development are required to consult with the Mineral Planning Authority.	Geology and Hydrogeology
Policy 17: Design	<i>"The design of built development and the restoration of sites should be sympathetic to and, where opportunities arise, enhance local distinctiveness and the character and quality of the area in which it is located."</i>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Neighbourhood Plans		
N/A	Policies and information contained within neighbourhood plans which may further inform the design/assessment of the Projects	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Lincolnshire Minerals Local Plan/East Lindsey Minerals Safeguarding Areas Policies Map		
Policy M11 Safeguarding of Mineral Resources	Policy M11 identifies potential economic mineral resources to be safeguarded from non-minerals development and avoid preventing future extraction.	Geology and Hydrogeology

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	Applications for non-mineral development within a mineral safeguarding area should be accompanied by a minerals assessment.	
Policy M12: Safeguarding of Existing Mineral Sites and Associated Minerals Infrastructure	Policy M12 safeguards strategically allocated mineral sites and associated infrastructure against development that could sterilise or jeopardise their use.	Geology and Hydrogeology
Norfolk Minerals and Waste Development Framework		
Policy CS16: Safeguarding mineral and waste sites and mineral resources.	<p>Policy CS16 sets out the Mineral Planning Authority's approach to safeguarding existing and planning mineral extraction sites and their associated infrastructure (such as railheads, wharves).</p> <p>Policy also identifies Silica sand as being a safeguarded resource within the Mineral Planning Authority's jurisdiction, whilst areas of sands and gravels are noted as requiring caution against non-minerals development needlessly sterilising. The policy sets out that the Mineral Planning Authority should be consulted on development proposals within the mineral consultation areas.</p>	Geology and Hydrogeology
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan (adopted July 2021)		
<i>Policy 5: Mineral Safeguarding Areas</i>	Sets out the Mineral Planning Authority's approach to safeguarding potential economic minerals from non-minerals development. Policy sets out criteria to trigger consultation with the Mineral Planning Authority.	Geology and Hydrogeology
<i>Policy 6: Mineral Development Areas</i>	Sets out the Mineral Planning Authority's approach to protecting sites (both with and without planning permission) which have been strategically allocated for future mineral extraction within the Local Plan.	Geology and Hydrogeology
<i>Policy 15: Transport Infrastructure Areas</i>	Identifies strategic transport areas such as wharves, railheads (both existing and planned) which support in the sustainable transport of minerals and waste.	Geology and Hydrogeology
<i>Policy 16: Consultation Areas</i>	Allocates a buffer around the strategically allocated areas covered by the Local Plan in which non-minerals development are required to consult with the Mineral Planning Authority.	Geology and Hydrogeology
Norfolk County Council: Norfolk County Council's Environmental Plan (2020)		

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
Policy: Using and managing land sustainably	This policy lays out the framework for the sustainable use and management of land, including the requirement for the improvement of soil health.	Agriculture and Soils
Policy: Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing	The Environmental Policy sets out the Council's approach to providing access to green spaces to facilitate improvements to health and wellbeing.	Health and Wellbeing
Cambridgeshire County Council: Cambridge Local Plan (2018)		
Paragraph 2.78	This paragraph states that schemes should not be built on BMV land without justification, and poorer quality land should be used preferentially. It places emphasis on the availability of land for food production and other ecosystem services. It highlights the need for design to target areas of lower grade land. It also makes reference to adhering to Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs Construction Code of Practice to protect soil resources.	Agriculture and Soils
Policy 8: Setting of the city	The policy makes reference to agricultural land in relation to Development within designated green areas will only be supported where it: <i>".... safeguards the best and most versatile agricultural land unless sustainable development considerations and the need for development are sufficient to override the need to protect the agricultural value of land; ..."</i>	Agriculture and Soils
Lincolnshire County Council Local Transport Plan 5		
Policy SH4	Seeks to reduce air, light and noise pollution created by the transport system, focusing on areas with designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) and where impacts are felt by significant populations.	Traffic and Transport
Policy E4	Identify and support a range of transport improvements to better connect employment centres with workforce and broaden the opportunities for those seeking employment to access an increasingly diverse range of opportunities.	Traffic and Transport
Policy GREEN4	Deliver sustainable development by ensuring that new developments are designed to minimise the need to travel, minimise car use and support the use of more sustainable modes.	Traffic and Transport

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
Norfolk Local Transport Plan 4 (2021 – 2036)		
Policy 5 (Delivering a Sustainable Norfolk)	Working with partners to inform decisions about new development ensuring they are well connected to maximise use of sustainable and active transport options.	Traffic and Transport
Policy 6	County council will ensure that development is planned with active and sustainable travel in mind, contributions are secured for active travel infrastructure so that negative impact from developments is minimised, TP's for new developments are secured and enacted; and carbon is considered.	Traffic and Transport
Transport Strategy and High Level Programme for Cambridge and South Cambridge (2014)		
Policy TSCSC 5	Developers will be required to make provision to mitigate both the site specific and network impacts of their planning proposal.	Traffic and Transport
Policy TSCSC 6	Outlines the requirement of a TA for applications producing a net increase of approximately 500 person trips per day	Traffic and Transport
Policy TSCSC 14	Where there is a requirement for new distributor roads or through roads as a part of a development, adherence to the need to prioritise pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users will remain	Traffic and Transport
King's Lynn & West Norfolk Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan		
Policy DM 12 (Strategic Road Network)	New development near strategic routes, or on side roads connecting to them, can add significant volumes of local traffic. This proposed policy approach is to not allow development that could undermine their function as long distance routes. Where appropriate, a TA will be required to demonstrate that development can be accommodated on the local road network.	Traffic and Transport
King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council Local Development Framework – Core Strategy		
Policy CS11 (Transport)	Development proposals should demonstrate that they have been designed to reduce the need to travel, promote sustainable forms of transport, and provide for safe and convenient access for all modes.	Traffic and Transport

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
Policy CS14 (Infrastructure Provision)	All development in the plan area will need to be accompanied by appropriate infrastructure (including off site infrastructure) in a timely way, with arrangements for its subsequent maintenance. Obligations will be sought from developers through Section 106 Agreements or other successor mechanisms.	Traffic and Transport
Fenland Transport Strategy (2023)		
Policy FTS7	Developers will be required to make provision to mitigate both the site specific and network impacts of their planning proposal. Mitigation measures will be secured by direct improvements carried out by the developer through a Section 106 agreement	Traffic and Transport
Fenland Transport Strategy Action Plan March 2024		
N/A	This document follows the Fenland Transport Strategy published in 2023. This plan includes high-level actions that have been identified through the development of the strategy that are needed to achieve the vision. This Action Plan highlights schemes that align with wider policy set out within the 2023 strategy.	
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Core Strategy: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan (adopted September 2016)		
Policy DM 20 – Renewable Energy	<i>“Proposals for renewable energy (other than proposals for wind energy development) and associated infrastructure, including the landward infrastructure for offshore renewable schemes, will be assessed to determine whether or not the benefits they bring in terms of the energy generated are outweighed by the impacts, either individually or cumulatively, upon:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>[...] Amenity (in terms of noise, overbearing relationship, air quality and light pollution)</i> <i>Development may be permitted where any adverse impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated against, and such mitigation can be secured either by planning condition or by legal agreement”.</i> 	Noise and Vibration
East Lindsey District Council: East Lindsey District Council Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2023)		
N/A	The East Lindsey District Council Health and Wellbeing Strategy sets out five key aims for the successful delivery of the plan, including themes of	Health and Wellbeing

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	improving the supply of homes, to address inactivity, to deliver on environment and health improvements together, to reduce economic inequality and alleviate poverty, and support local communities.	
Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk: Local Development Framework Core Strategy (2011)		
Policy CS01 and Policy CS13	Policy CS01 seeks to improve accessibility for all to education, health, and housing. Policy CS13 under the Local Plan seeks to improve quality of life for residents through inclusive design, high quality development and community involvement.	Health and Wellbeing
Policy CS08: Sustainable Development	Indicates that new development be required to demonstrate its ability to respond to the context and character of places in West Norfolk by ensuring that the scale, density, layout and access would enhance the quality of the environment.	Air Quality
Fenland District Council: Fenland Emerging Local Plan (2021 – 2040)		
Policy LP5	The policy states that development proposals should contribute to promoting health and wellbeing of the community and reducing health inequalities. Developments should enable healthy and active lifestyles.	Health and Wellbeing
Policy LP24: Natural Environment	The Council will, through development management processes, aid the management, protection, enhancement and creation of priority habitats, including washlands, rivers and flood meadows.	Water Environment
Policy LP32: Flood and Water Management	Development located in areas known to be at risk from any form of flooding will only be permitted following the successful completion of the NPPF sequential and exception tests (where relevant), submission of a site-specific flood risk assessment, setting out appropriate flood risk management and demonstrating no increased risk of flooding to the development site or to surrounding properties or elsewhere and the incorporation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) into the proposals.	Water Environment
Policy LP26: Carbon Sinks and Carbon Sequestration "Part A: Carbon Sinks"	This policy highlights the ecological and environmental importance of peatland and peaty soils. It states that unavoidable damage to these resources will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that: <i>"a. the site is allocated for development; or</i>	Agriculture and Soils

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	<p><i>b. there is not a less harmful viable option to development of that site.”</i></p> <p>It states that it must be evidenced that all has been done to reduce all possible harm and that where peat soils are to be removed that the soils must be stored in a way to limit carbon loss to the atmosphere.</p>	
Paragraph 17.17	This paragraph emphasises the importance of the area for food production and discourages development on BMV land.	Agriculture and Soils
Paragraph 17.18	This paragraph states that schemes should not be built on BMV land without justification, and poorer quality land should be used preferentially. Economic and other benefits of the land should also be accounted for.	Agriculture and Soils
Paragraph 17.19	This paragraph states the requirement for all developments where a loss of >1ha of BMV is anticipated will be required to demonstrate that there are no suitable alternatives. These developments will also require an Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) statement.	Agriculture and Soils
Policy LP18: Development in the <i>Countryside Part H: Protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land</i>	<p>This paragraph states that schemes should not be built on BMV land without justification, and poorer quality land should be used preferentially. Economic and other benefits such as food production should also be accounted for.</p> <p>It states that development on BMV will only be permitted if there are no alternatives on lower grade land, impacts on operations have been minimised through design, and there is a commitment to restore land to an equal or greater quality upon decommissioning.</p>	Agriculture and Soils
Fenland District Council: Fenland District Council Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2018-2021)		
N/A	The Strategy explains the strategic policies for Fenland, including the priorities for supporting the community, improving lifestyle factors and improving mental health and wellbeing.	Health and Wellbeing
Lincolnshire District Council Health and Wellbeing Strategy		
04 Strategic Framework Activity Outputs 4.2 06 Key data, indicators and ‘levelling up’ 6.1	The LDC Strategy covers East Lindsey District Council, South Holland District Council and Boston Borough Council, aiming to alleviate poverty as a driver for improving mental and physical health. The plan further sets out goals to work with communities	Health and Wellbeing

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	to support engagement and collaboration, develop programmes for improving quality of accommodation and improve access to safe places and spaces, in which to take part in regular physical activity. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy additionally sets out a number of key indicators for measuring success.	
Lincolnshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2024)		
N/A	The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) sets out the direction or travel for health and wellbeing in Lincolnshire. The JHWS aims to provide a context, vision and overall focus for improving the health and wellbeing of local people and reducing health inequalities at every stage of life.	
Cambridge County Council (2022) Health & Wellbeing Integrated Care Strategy		
Priority Chapters 1-4	To support the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Health & Wellbeing and Integrated Care Strategy, a series of priority chapters were produced which present the evidence bases and themes for improving health and wellbeing in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.	Health and Wellbeing

1.2.A.3 English Offshore Scheme

- 1.2.A.3.1 This section identifies the relevant legislation, national and local policy and technical guidance which has informed the scope of the environmental aspect chapters for the English Offshore Scheme.

Legislation

- 1.2.A.3.2 A summary of the key legislation considered in, but not limited to, the scope of the environmental aspect effects is outlined in **Table 1.2.A-4**.

Table 1.2.A-4 - Legislation relevant to the environmental aspect chapters

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora)	The 'Habitats Directive' (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) protects habitats and species of European nature conservation importance. Together with the 'Birds Directive' (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds), the Habitats Directive establishes a network of internationally important sites (i.e., 'Natura 2000 Sites') designated for their	Designated Sites Ornithology Marine Mammal

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
'Birds Directive' (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds)	<p>ecological status. This includes SACs and SPAs and in accordance with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Circular 06/2005 (ODPM, 2005), Ramsar sites. Collectively SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites are referred to as European Sites in UK legislation.</p> <p>The Habitats Directives are transposed into UK law in the offshore area (>12 NM from the coast) by The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended) (COMHS); and within the inshore area (<12 NM from the coast) by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended) (COHSR). This legislation is collectively referred to as the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p>Under the Habitats Regulations, the competent authority is required to undertake a HRA to determine whether there is potential for a plan or project to have an adverse effect on a European Site, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects</p>	
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended) (COHSR)	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (Ref 3.2) (amended 20193) transposes the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and implements provisions from the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), into UK legislation. These regulations cover the requirements to protect sites that are internationally important for threatened habitats and species out to the 12 nautical mile (NM) limit.	Marine Mammals Ornithology Intertidal and subtidal Benthic Ecology
The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended) (COMHSR)	The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) covers the requirements to protect sites that are internationally important for marine habitats and species within the UK Offshore Marine Area (beyond the 12 NM limit).	Marine Mammals Ornithology Intertidal and subtidal Benthic Ecology

³ Amended in response to the UK's exit from the European Union (EU), making the Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Wild

Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives, operable from 1 January 2021, and creating a UK natural site network in place of the EU Natura 2000 ecological network.

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act	Section 41 of the NERC Act refers to a published list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.	Marine Mammals Ornithology Intertidal and subtidal Benthic Ecology Fish and Shellfish
Marine Works (EIA) Regulations (2007) (as amended)	The Marine Works (EIA) Regulations (2007) require certain types of projects that have the potential to significantly affect the environment to submit an EIA before a marine licence decision is made.	All aspects assessed for the English Offshore Scheme in Volume 1, Part 3 English Offshore Scheme
Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)	The Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) provides the legal mechanism to help ensure clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas. The Act is designed to create a more integrated approach to effective marine management, enable the sustainable use and production of marine resources and provide a clear framework for consistent decision making.	All aspects assessed for the English Offshore Scheme in Volume 1, Part 3 English Offshore Scheme
Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended in 1985).	The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) includes provisions relating to nature conservation, including marine habitats and species.	Marine Mammals
Conservation of Seals Act (1970) (as amended)	Applies out to 12 nautical miles and makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take a seal	Marine Mammals
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (the 'OSPAR' convention) adopted in 1992	OSPAR is the mechanism by which 15 Governments and the European Union cooperate to protect the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic.	All aspects assessed for the English Offshore Scheme in Volume 1, Part 3 English Offshore Scheme

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
Energy Act (2004)	The Act is important in providing the framework for the development of offshore wind and other marine renewable energy sources, including associated infrastructure outside territorial waters.	
The Submarine Telegraph Act (1885)	It is an offence to wilfully, or by culpable negligence, break or injure a submarine cable in a way that might interrupt or obstruct telegraphic or telephonic communication (see Section 3 of the Submarine Telegraph Act (1885) as applied by Section 8(i) of the Continental Shelf Act (1964)).	All aspects assessed for the English Offshore Scheme in Volume 1, Part 3 English Offshore Scheme
The World Heritage Convention (1972)	The Convention sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them. By signing the Convention, each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage.	Marine Archaeology
Protection of Wrecks Act (1973)	The Protection of Wrecks Act (1973) (c. 33) is an act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom which provides protection for designated shipwrecks. Section 1 of the act provides for wrecks to be designated because of historical, archaeological or artistic value. Section 2 provides for designation of dangerous sites. Wreck sites must have a known location in order to be designated.	Marine Archaeology
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)	The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) (c. 46) or AMAAA was a law passed by the UK government, the latest in a series of Ancient Monument Acts legislating to protect the archaeological heritage of England and Wales, and Scotland.[1] Northern Ireland has its own legislation. Section 61(12) defines sites that warrant protection due to their being of national importance as " <i>ancient Monuments</i> ". These can be either Scheduled Monuments or " <i>any other monument which in the opinion of the Secretary of State is of public interest by reason of the historic, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching to it</i> ". If an ancient monument is scheduled, then it gains additional legal protection.	Marine Archaeology
United Nations Convention on the Law	The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea lays down a comprehensive regime of law and	All aspects assessed for

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
of the Sea (1982) (UNCLOS)	<p>order in the world's oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources. It enshrines the notion that all problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be addressed as a whole.</p> <p>In respect to installation of cables within the European Economic Zone, installation of cables which are solely for the transmission of electricity are exempt from marine licensing under the MCAA beyond 12 NM, furthermore a licence within 12 NM must be granted, although conditions can be placed with the consent. Beyond 12 NM a licence is required for cable protection and dredging of sand waves only.</p>	the English Offshore Scheme in Volume 1, Part 3 English Offshore Scheme
Protection of Military Remains Act (1986)	The Protection of Military Remains Act (1986) (1986 c. 35) is an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that provides protection for the wreckage of military aircraft and designated military vessels. The Act provides for two types of protection: protected places and controlled sites. Military aircraft are automatically protected, but vessels have to be specifically designated. The primary reason for designation is to protect as a 'war grave' the last resting place of British servicemen (or other nationals); however, the Act does not require the loss of the vessel to have occurred during war	Marine Archaeology
Merchant Shipping Act (1995)	The Merchant Shipping Act (1995) (c. 21) is an act of Parliament passed in the United Kingdom in 1995. It consolidated much of the UK's maritime legislation, repealing several acts in their entirety and provisions in many more, some dating back to the mid-nineteenth century. It appoints several officers of Admiralty Jurisdiction such as the Receiver of Wreck. The act of 1995 updates the prior Merchant Shipping Act (1894) (57 & 58 Vict. c. 60). The lead part on British ships was impacted by the outcome of the <i>Factortame</i> case, as the Merchant Shipping Act (1988) was impugned by the Common Fisheries Policy.	Marine Archaeology
International Council of Monuments and Sites Charter on the Protection and Management of Underwater Cultural Heritage (1996) (the Sofia Charter)	The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS; French: Conseil international des monuments et des sites) is a professional association that works for the conservation and protection of cultural heritage places around the world. Now headquartered in Charenton-le-Pont, France, ICOMOS was founded in 1965 in Warsaw	Marine Archaeology

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
	as a result of the Venice Charter of 1964 and offers advice to UNESCO on World Heritage Sites.	
UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)	<p>The 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage establishes a common framework for the identification, preservation and sustainability of objects that have been immersed for at least 100 years.</p> <p>The 2001 Convention provides a common legally binding framework for States Parties on how to better identify, research and protect their underwater heritage while ensuring its preservation and sustainability. Adopted on 2 November 2001 at the 31st General Conference of UNESCO, the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage urges States to take all appropriate measures to protect underwater heritage.</p>	Marine Archaeology
European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (revised) (1992) (the Valletta Convention) – ratified by the UK Government in 2000 and came into force in 2001	The Valletta Treaty (formally the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised), also known as the Malta Convention) is a multilateral treaty of the Council of Europe. The 1992 treaty aims to protect the European archaeological heritage "as a source of European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study". All remains and objects and any other traces of humankind from past times are considered to be elements of the archaeological heritage. The archaeological heritage shall include structures, constructions, groups of buildings, developed sites, moveable objects, monuments of other kinds as well as their context, whether situated on land or under water	Marine Archaeology
European Landscape Convention (2000) – adopted in the UK in 2007	The ELC provides a people-centred and forward-looking way to reconcile management of the environment with the social and economic challenges of the future, and aims to help people reconnect with place.	Marine Archaeology
European Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000	Commonly referred to as the Water Framework Directive, the full title of this directive is “European Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy”. This is an EU directive which commits European Union member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water bodies. Since leaving the EU, the EU	Marine Physical Processes and Water Quality

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
	Water Framework Directive has been revoked and replaced in England, Wales and Northern Ireland by the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations (2017), and the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) (2017).	
European Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008	Commonly referred to as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the full title of this directive is “European Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy”. This Directive sets out a framework within which Member States must take the necessary measures to achieve or maintain good environmental status in the marine environment by the year 2020 at the latest. Since leaving the EU, the existing UK-wide framework has been maintained to allow for consistent marine environmental monitoring and standards across the UK.	Marine Mammals and Marine Reptiles Ornithology Intertidal and subtidal Benthic Ecology Fish and Shellfish
The Marine Strategy Regulations (2010)	The Marine Strategy Regulations (2010) transposes the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) into UK legislation as retained law from the European Union.	Marine Mammals and Marine Reptiles Ornithology Intertidal and subtidal Benthic Ecology
The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive (England and Wales)) Regulations (2017)	The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive (England and Wales)) Regulations (2017) transposes the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) into UK legislation as retained law from the European Union.	Marine Physical Processes and Water Quality
Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006)	Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006) imposes a requirement on the Secretary of State to publish a species list of principal importance for the purpose of conservation of biodiversity.	Marine Mammals and Marine Reptiles Ornithology Intertidal and Subtidal Benthic Ecology

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
		Fish and Shellfish
Environment Act (2021)	The Environment Act (2021) sets clear statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water and waste, and includes the introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).	Marine Mammals and Marine Reptiles Ornithology Intertidal and Subtidal Benthic Ecology Fish and Shellfish
The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations (2009)	The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations (2009) implement Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 (EC) No 1100/2007 establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel including providing for the free passage of eels. This is now part of the body of retained EU law.	Fish and Shellfish
The Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act (1975)	The Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act (1975) (Ref 4.10), which relates to the protection of salmon and freshwater fisheries, as well as preventing the obstruction of fish migration routes.	Fish and Shellfish
Offshore Chemicals Regulations (2002) (as amended)	Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations (2002) (CHIP) ensures people are supplied with the information they need to protect themselves from chemicals. CHIP obliges suppliers of chemicals to identify hazards and provide appropriate packaging labels and safety data sheets.	Shipping and Navigation
International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (2004)	2004 international maritime treaty which requires signatory flag states to ensure that ships flagged by them comply with standards and procedures for the management and control of ships' ballast water and sediments. The Convention aims to prevent the spread of harmful aquatic organisms from one region to another and halt damage to the marine environment from ballast water discharge, by minimising the uptake and subsequent discharge of sediments and organisms.	Shipping and Navigation
The International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs)	Also known as Collision Regulations (COLREGs), are published by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and set out, among other things, the "rules of the road" or navigation rules to be followed by ships and other vessels at sea to	Shipping and Navigation

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
	prevent collisions between two or more vessels. COLREGs can also refer to the specific political line that divides inland waterways, which are subject to their own navigation rules, and coastal waterways which are subject to international navigation rules.	
International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)	The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 as modified by the Protocol of 1978, or "MARPOL 73/78" (short for "marine pollution") is one of the most important international marine environmental conventions. It was developed by the International Maritime Organization with an objective to minimize pollution of the oceans and seas, including dumping, oil and air pollution.	Shipping and Navigation
Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation Convention) Regulations (1998)	<p>Parties to the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC) are required to establish measures for dealing with pollution incidents, either nationally or in co-operation with other countries.</p> <p>Ships are required to carry a shipboard oil pollution emergency plan. Operators of offshore units under the jurisdiction of Parties are also required to have oil pollution emergency plans or similar arrangements which must be co-ordinated with national systems for responding promptly and effectively to oil pollution incidents.</p> <p>Ships are required to report incidents of pollution to coastal authorities and the convention details the actions that are then to be taken. The Convention calls for the establishment of stockpiles of oil spill combating equipment, the holding of oil spill combating exercises and the development of detailed plans for dealing with pollution incidents. Parties to the convention are required to provide assistance to others in the event of a pollution emergency and provision is made for the reimbursement of any assistance provided.</p>	Shipping and Navigation
Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Sewage and Garbage from Ships) Regulations (2008) (as amended)	These Regulations implement Annexes IV (Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution by Sewage) and V (Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution by Garbage) of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (1973) as modified by the Protocol of 1978	Shipping and Navigation

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
	relating to that Convention. They concern, among other things: surveys to be carried out and Sewage Certificates; the disposal of plastics into the sea; and powers of inspection and detention of ships.	
International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) (1974)	The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) is an international maritime treaty which sets out minimum safety standards in the construction, equipment and operation of merchant ships. The International Maritime Organization convention requires signatory flag states to ensure that ships flagged by them comply with at least these standards. SOLAS in its successive forms is generally regarded as the most important of all international treaties concerning the safety of merchant ships.	Shipping and Navigation
The Merchant Shipping (Safety of Navigation) Regulations (2002, as amended 2020)	The Merchant Shipping (Safety of Navigation) Regulations (2020) ("the 2020 Regulations") implement Chapter V of the Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, (1974) ("SOLAS" or "the Convention") and all outstanding amendments to Chapter V. Chapter V was negotiated and agreed in the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Chapter V focuses on measures which improve safety of navigation, and to reduce the risk of accidents occurring at sea, specifically in the areas of the carriage and use of equipment to assist in safe navigation, the receipt of vital safety information and communications, including emergency communications and signals.	Shipping and Navigation

Planning Policy

- 1.2.A.3.3 A summary of the planning policies at both a national and local level relevant to the scope of the environmental aspect effects is outlined in **Table 1.2.A-5**.

Table 1.2.A-5 - National Planning Policy relevant to the environmental aspect chapters

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
'Advice Note Eighteen: The Water Framework Directive' (Planning Inspectorate, 2017).		
	The WFD assessment is a staged assessment requiring consideration of potential water bodies, including coastal water bodies, that could be impacted by the works. Assessments are carried out within a defined Zone of Influence, based on particular proposed activities.	Marine Physical Processes and Water Quality Other Marine Users

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
Marine Policy Statement (MPS) (2011)		
1.1	Marine Plans – The overarching principle of the MPS is to establish relevant Marine Plans for regions around the UK Coastline. The MPS therefore sets off the requirement for marine plan authorities to develop and implement appropriate Marine Plans for their Region (see below for Marine Plan Assessments).	All aspects assessed for the English Offshore Scheme in Volume 1, Part 3 English Offshore Scheme

1.2.A.3.4 For the East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans (2014) and Northeast Inshore and Northeast Offshore Marine Plan (2021) please refer to **Volume 2, Part 1 Appendix 1.2.B Marine Plan Assessments**.

1.2.A.4 Project Wide Scheme

1.2.A.4.1 This section identifies the relevant legislation, national and local policy and technical guidance which has informed the scope of the environmental aspect chapters for the Project Wide Scheme.

Legislation

1.2.A.4.2 A summary of the key legislation considered in, but not limited to, the scope of the environmental aspect effects is outlined in **Table 1.2.A-6**.

Table 1.2.A-6 - Legislation relevant to the environmental aspect chapters

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)	The UK is a member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ('UNFCCC') which drives international action on climate change. The UK has pledged to reduce emissions under the 'Paris Agreement' in 2015, as a part of a joint pledge by members of the EU. This provides an overarching commitment by the UK. In December 2020, the UK communicated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC in line with Article 4 of the Paris Agreement. In its NDC, the UK commits to reducing economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by at least 68% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels.	Greenhouse Gases
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report -	The IPCC has confirmed the need for global carbon emissions to follow a pathway that will prevent global warming exceeding 1.5 °C. In its global emission pathways, the IPCC outlines the role of carbon capture and storage and how it can contribute to negative	Greenhouse Gases

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
Global Warming of 1.5 °C (2018)	emissions, driving reductions in the energy sector. The IPCC's Synthesis Report for the Sixth Assessment (Summary for Policymakers) Report (Ref 12.11) reports that: <i>"All global modelled pathways that limit warming to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot, and those that limit warming to 2°C involve rapid and deep and, in most cases, immediate greenhouse gas emissions reductions in all sectors this decade"</i> . The report further highlights the need for CO2 removal to stay within the bounds of 1.5°C warming trajectory.	
The Climate Change Act (2008) (2050 Target Amendment) Order (2019)	Sets UK Government overall targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction and net zero target for 2050.	Greenhouse Gases
Climate Change Committee (CCC): The Sixth Carbon Budget The UK's path to Net Zero	As part of the CCC's recommendation for the UK's Sixth Carbon Budget (which will run from 2033 to 2037), it is noted that investments in transmission networks will be key to accommodate higher levels of low carbon generation such as offshore wind. Upgrades in distribution networks to accommodate electric vehicles and use of heat pumps are also noted as important.	Greenhouse Gases
Infrastructure Carbon Review (2013)	<p>In 2013, the UK government published the Infrastructure Carbon Review, aiming to <i>"release the value of lower carbon solutions and to make carbon reduction part of the DNA of infrastructure in the UK"</i>.</p> <p>Major infrastructure owners, operators and developers across the communication, energy, transport, waste and water sectors were invited to endorse it, become signatories and make commitments under the Review. The Review provided increased emphasis on <i>"capital carbon"</i> (GHG emissions associated with raw materials, activities and transport for construction, repairs, replacement, refurbishment and de-construction of infrastructure) while acknowledging that 'operational carbon' (associated with energy consumption for the operation and use of infrastructure) will continue to dominate overall emission to 2050 and beyond.</p> <p>The Review highlighted the importance of assessing GHG emissions early in the lifecycle of an infrastructure scheme, when there is the greatest carbon reduction potential. The Review also led to the publication of a Publicly Available Specification (PAS) on Infrastructure Carbon Management (PAS 2080:2016).</p>	Greenhouse Gases
The Clean Growth Strategy (2017)	Within this strategy is an ambition to deliver clean, smart, flexible power. It notes the continued need for additional	Greenhouse Gases

Legislation	Legislative Context	Environmental Aspect
	renewable energy generation, including offshore wind, and therefore investment required in infrastructure supporting the transmission and distribution of power.	
The Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations (2017)	The EIA Regulations cover the process of EIA in the context of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. They apply the amended EU Directive 2014/52/EU. Schedule 4, paragraph 5(e), and Regulation 5(2) (see paragraphs 21.1.3 and 2.1.4 above) are of relevance to cumulative effects.	Cumulative Effects

Planning Policy

- 1.2.A.4.3 A summary of the planning policies at both a national and local level relevant to the scope of the environmental aspect effects is outlined in **Table 1.2.A-7** and **Table 1.2.A-8**.

Table 1.2.A-7 - National Planning Policy relevant to the environmental aspect chapters

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2024)		
Paragraph 5.3.4	<i>“All proposals for energy infrastructure projects should include a GHG assessment as part of their ES.”</i>	Greenhouse Gases
Paragraph 5.3.5	<i>“A GHG assessment should be used to drive down GHG emissions at every stage of the proposed development and ensure that emissions are minimised as far as possible for the type of technology, taking into account the overall objectives of ensuring our supply of energy always remains secure, reliable and affordable, as we transition to net zero.”</i>	Greenhouse Gases
Paragraph 4.1.5	EN-1 states that, in considering any proposed development, in particular when weighting its adverse impacts against its benefits, the SoS should take into account: <i>“its potential adverse impacts, including on the environment, and including any long-term and cumulative adverse impacts, as well as any measures to avoid, reduce, mitigate or compensate for any adverse impacts, following the mitigation hierarchy”</i> .	Cumulative Effects
Paragraph 4.2.12	Notes that applications for critical national priority infrastructure should set out how residual impacts of a proposed development will be compensated for and that cumulative impacts of multiple developments with residual impacts should also be considered.	Cumulative Effects
Paragraph 4.3.3	EN-1 acknowledges the requirements of the EIA Regulations, noting that: <i>“The Regulations require an</i>	Cumulative Effects

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	<i>assessment of the likely significant effects of the proposed project on the environment, covering the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short, medium, and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects at all stages of the project, and also of the measures envisaged for avoiding or mitigating significant adverse effects”.</i>	
Sections 4.4, 4.9, 4.11, 4.12, 5.5, 5.8, 5.9, 5.10, 5.13, 5.14, 5.16	<p>The following sections of EN-1 all state a requirement to include cumulative impacts in the assessment of a proposed development and/or that cumulative impacts should be considered as part of the SoS decision making process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Carbon Capture and Storage • Network Connection • Pollution Control and Other Environmental Regulatory Regimes • Civil and Military Aviation and Defence Interests • Flood Risk • Historic Environment • Landscape and Visual • Socio-Economic Impacts • Traffic and Transport • Water Quality and Resources 	Cumulative Effects
National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2024)		
Paragraph 2.10.1	The avoidance/minimisation of environmental impacts both onshore and offshore should be addressed at an early stage in the development process.	Greenhouse Gases
Paragraph 2.10.14	The climate-warming potential of Sulphur Hexafluoride ⁴ (SF6) is such that applicants should, as a rule, avoid the use of SF6 in new developments.	Greenhouse Gases
Paragraph 2.10.15	<i>“Where no proven SF6-free alternative is commercially available, and where the cost of procuring a bespoke alternative is grossly disproportionate, the continued use of SF6 is acceptable, provided that emissions monitoring and control measures compliant with the F-gas Regulation and/or its successors are in place.”</i>	Greenhouse Gases

⁴ Sulphur Hexafluoride is a gas used in some designs of electrical switchgear.

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
Paragraph 2.7.1.	Supports EN-1 by providing guidance on new electricity networks infrastructure to ensure it is well designed. It states <i>“EN-1 explains in Section 4.10 that the Planning Act 2008 aims to create a holistic planning regime, such that the cumulative effects of the same project can be considered together. Co-ordinated applications typically bring economic efficiencies and reduced environmental impact”.</i>	Cumulative Effects
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2024)		
Paragraph 191 (NPPF 2024)	The NPPF sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these should be applied, with the following paragraphs relating to cumulative effects: Paragraph 191: <i>“Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development”.</i>	Cumulative Effects
East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plan (2014)		
Policy CC2	<i>“Proposals for development should minimise emissions of greenhouse gases as far as is appropriate. Mitigation measures will also be encouraged where emissions remain following minimising steps. Consideration should also be given to emissions from other activities or users affected by the proposal.”</i>	Greenhouse Gases

Table 1.2.A-8 - Local Planning Policy relevant to the environmental aspect chapters

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
East Lindsey District Council: East Lindsey Local Plan Core Strategy, (2018) (adopted 2018)		
SP27 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	<i>“Large-scale renewable and low carbon energy development, development for the transmission and interconnection of electricity, and infrastructure required to support such development, will be supported where their individual or cumulative impact is, when weighed against the benefits, considered to be acceptable in relation to:</i> <i>a) residential amenity;</i> <i>b) surrounding landscape, townscape and historic landscape character, and visual qualities;</i> <i>c) the significance (including the setting) of a historic garden, park, battlefield, building,</i>	Greenhouse Gases, Cumulative Effects

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	<p>conservation area, archaeological site or other heritage asset;</p> <p>d) sites or features of biodiversity or geodiversity importance, or protected species;</p> <p>e) the local economy;</p> <p>f) highway safety; and</p> <p>g) water environment and water quality”</p>	
SP28 Infrastructure and S106 Obligations	SP28 states “Infrastructure schemes should be accompanied by an impact assessment that shows how the proposal impacts on the landscape or local setting of the area, including individual and cumulative effects. It should identify what steps have been taken to minimize its effects and the alternative options that have been considered”.	Cumulative Effects
SP11 Historic Environment	SP11 states “Proposals will be supported where they: Do not have a harmful cumulative impact on heritage assets”.	Historic Environment, Cumulative Effects
Boston Borough Council and South Holland District: Southeast Lincolnshire Local Plan, (2011-2036) (Adopted 2019)		
Policy 5: Developer Contributions	<p>Policy 5 states “Developers will either make direct provision or will contribute towards the provision of local and strategic infrastructure and services required by the development, either alone or cumulatively with other developments. Contributions will be determined having regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the identified needs generated by the proposed development; the viability of the proposed development; and <p>the priorities attached to meeting individual local and strategic infrastructure and service requirements”.</p>	Cumulative Effects
Policy 31: Climate Change and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy.	<p>A. Climate Change: “All development proposals will be required to demonstrate that the consequences of current climate change has been addressed, minimised and mitigated....”</p> <p>“B. Renewable Energy: With the exception of Wind Energy the development of renewable energy facilities, associated infrastructure and the integration of decentralised technologies on existing or proposed structures will be permitted provided, individually, or cumulatively, there would be no significant harm to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> visual amenity, landscape character or quality, or skyline considerations; residential amenity in respect of: noise, fumes, 	Greenhouse Gases

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	<p>odour, vibration, shadow flicker, sunlight reflection, broadcast interference, traffic;</p> <p>3. highway safety (including public rights of way);</p> <p>4. agricultural land take;</p> <p>5. aviation and radar safety;</p> <p>6. heritage assets including their setting; and</p> <p>7. the natural environment.”</p>	
Borough Council of King’s Lynn and West Norfolk: Local Development Framework – Core Strategy, (2011) (Adopted 2011)		
CS08 Sustainable Development	<p>“The Council and its partners will support and encourage the generation of energy from renewable sources. These will be permitted unless there are unacceptable locational or other impacts that could not be outweighed by wider environmental, social, economic and other benefits.</p> <p>Renewable projects should be assessed accordingly (where necessary by project level Habitat Regulation Assessment) to ensure minimal ecological impact, and should undergo a detailed cumulative impact assessment.”</p>	Greenhouse Gases
Policy CS08 – Renewable Energy	Policy CS08 states “Renewable projects should be assessed accordingly (where necessary by project level Habitat Regulation Assessment) to ensure minimal ecological impact, and should undergo a detailed cumulative impact assessment”.	Cumulative Effects
Fenland District Council: Fenland Local Plan, (2014) (Adopted 2014)		
Policy LP13 – Supporting and Managing the Impact of a Growing District	Policy LP13 states “b) Developer Contributions: Developers will either make direct provision or will contribute towards the provision of local and strategic infrastructure required by the development either alone or cumulatively with other developments”.	Cumulative Effects
Policy LP14 – Responding to Climate Change and Managing the Risk of Flooding in Fenland	<p>Renewable Energy:</p> <p>“Renewable energy proposals will be supported and considered in the context of sustainable development and climate change. Proposals for renewable energy technology, associated infrastructure and integration of renewable technology on existing or proposed structures will be assessed both individually and cumulatively on their merits taking account of the following factors;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The surrounding landscape, townscape and heritage assets • Residential and visual amenity 	Greenhouse Gases

Policy Reference	Policy Context	Environmental Aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise impact Specific highway safety, designated nature conservation or biodiversity considerations Aircraft movements and associated activities High quality agricultural land” 	
Cambridgeshire County Council		
	The County Council notes its facilitating role in Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects through the DCO process.	Greenhouse Gases
Lincolnshire County Council		
	There is a need for the Projects to be consistent with the Guiding Principles set out in the Green Masterplan.	Greenhouse Gases
Norfolk County Council		
	The English Onshore Scheme is required to ensure that surface water management is considered and that sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) are integrated (as appropriate)	Greenhouse Gases
Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2023)		
Policy S14: Renewable Energy	Policy S14 states “ <i>Proposals for renewable energy schemes, including ancillary development, will be supported where the direct, indirect, individual and cumulative impacts on the following considerations are, or will be made, acceptable. To determine whether it is acceptable, the following tests will have to be met: i. The impacts are acceptable having considered the scale, siting and design, and the consequent impacts on landscape character; visual amenity; biodiversity; geodiversity; flood risk; townscape; heritage assets, their settings and the historic landscape; and highway safety and rail safety; and ii. The impacts are acceptable on aviation and defence navigation system/communications; and iii. The impacts are acceptable on the amenity of sensitive neighbouring uses (including local residents) by virtue of matters such as noise, dust, odour, shadow flicker, air quality and traffic</i> ”.	Cumulative Effects
Policy S45: Strategic Infrastructure Requirements	Policy S45 states “ <i>Development Contributions: Developers will be expected to contribute towards the delivery of relevant infrastructure, either through direct provision or contribution towards the provision of local and strategic infrastructure to meet the needs arising from the development either alone or cumulatively with other developments</i> ”.	Cumulative Effects

National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales
No. 4031152
nationalgrid.com